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EFFECT OF IVERMECTIN TO CONTROL MANGE MITE (*SARCOPTES SCABIEI*) IN RABBITS

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Sarcoptes mange is a significant disease of human, farm and wild animals. *Sarcoptes scabiei* is the agent which causes infestation and affects the ear, nose, feet and area around the genitalia which leads to dermatitis and itching; ultimately the animals' body condition weakens, leading to death. The first cases of scabies in European wild rabbits (*Oryctola-Gus cuniculus*) were only reported. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the effect of ivermectin on infected rabbits with mange mites. Thirty rabbits of local varieties naturally infested with ear, nose and around the eye were divided into three different groups: mild, moderate and severe, based on their main lesions score. The lesions were scored as: +present, ++ low, +++ medium, and ++++severe. Diagnosis was accomplished by clinical signs and stereomicroscopic examination of skin lesions. *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite was identified as the cause of the lesions. Ivermectin was given subcutaneously to the naturally infested three groups. Ivermectin (1%) was used each week at the dose level of 200 µg/kg. Microscopic examination of skin scrapings showed presence of adult parasites and egg with tissue debris till 10 days (+present) for mild, 15 days (+present) for medium and 20 days (++ low) for severe post-treatment. Mild, moderate and severe groups were completely recovered on the 15th, 20th and 25th day, respectively of post-treatment. However there was one rabbit of moderate group and two rabbits from the severe group with presence of mite eggs and some dead *Sarcoptes scabiei* during microscopic examination. Hence, it was concluded that ivermectin can be used safely, subcutaneously (200 µg/kg) on a weekly base and its repeated doses were effective in the control of ecto-parasite (*Sarcoptes Scabiei*) in rabbits.

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