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Review article

Biochemical, genetic and applied aspects of drug resistance in *Eimeria* parasites of the fowl

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Summary

Anticoccidial drugs are widely used for the control of coccidiosis in the fowl which has inevitably led to the development of drug resistance. Resistance has developed to all of the compounds that have been introduced and if chemotherapy is to remain the principal method of control of coccidiosis, it will be important to continue the search for

new anti-*Eimeria* parasite targets for chemical inhibition. The origins of resistance of *Eimeria* to anticoccidial drugs are not clear. The methods at present used for the control of coccidiosis are not sustainable strategies for the control of coccidiosis in the fowl.

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Les anticoccidiens sont largement utilisés dans le contrôle de la coccidiose chez les volailles et cela a conduit inévitablement au développement de la résistance vis-à-vis de ces produits.

La résistance s'est développée vis-à-vis de tous les produits qui ont été commercialisés, et si la chimiothérapie est encore la principale méthode de contrôle de la coccidiose, il est important de continuer la recherche de nouveaux agents anticoccidiens. La connaissance des voies biochimiques des Eimeria et de la manière dont elles diffèrent de ceux de l'hôte, peut aider à identifier de nouvelles cibles pour l'inhibition de cette résistance. Les études des modes d'action des médicaments sont nécessaires pour bien comprendre les mécanismes biochimiques de résistance. L'information sur les origines génétiques de la résistance, sa stabilité, et les facteurs impliqués dans la dissémination de la résistance au sein des populations parasites est nécessaire. Actuellement, en l'absence de méthode empêchant la résistance, une attention particulière doit être fournie au développement des différentes stratégies pour préserver l'efficacité des anticoccidiens.

Zusammenfassung

Antikokzidia werden allgemein für die Kokzidiosebekämpfung beim Geflügel verwendet, was zwangsläufig zur Entwicklung von Arzneimittelresistenzen geführt hat. Eine Resistenz hat sich gegen sämtliche eingeführten Präparate entwickelt, und wenn die Chemotherapie die hauptsächliche Methode der Kokzidiosebekämpfung bleiben soll, wird es wichtig sein, die Suche nach neuen Wirkstoffen gegen Kokzidien fortzusetzen. Kenntnisse über die beim Eimeria-Parasiten vorhandenen Stoffwechselwege und darüber, wie sie sich von denen des Wirtes unterscheiden, könnten helfen, neue Angriffsstellen für die Hemmung zu identifizieren. Es sind Untersuchungen über die Wirkungsweise von Arzneimitteln erforderlich, wenn die biochemischen Mechanismen der Resistenz verstanden werden sollen. Informationen über die genetischen Ursprünge

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resistencia a todos los compuestos que se han utilizado y si la quimioterapia va a seguir siendo la base del control de la coccidiosis será importante continuar la investigación de nuevos agentes anticoccidiósicos. Un conocimiento de las vías bioquímicas presentes en el parásito Eimeria y cómo difieren de las del hospedador ayudará a identificar nuevos blancos para producir inhibición. Son necesarios estudios acerca del modo de acción de dichos fármacos si se quiere comprender los mecanismos bioquímicos de resistencia. También es necesario obtener información acerca de los orígenes genéticos de la resistencia, la estabilidad de la resistencia y los factores envueltos en la diseminación de la resistencia a través de poblaciones de parásitos. Puesto que no hay métodos en el momento actual para impedir la resistencia, debiera darse una mayor atención a desarrollar estrategias para preservar la eficacia de los fármacos anticoccidiósicos.

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