EFFECT OF MONENSIN AND PROPYLENE GLYCOL AS A PROPHYLACTIC TOOLS FROM CAPRINE LAMB LOSSES AND THERE EFFECTS ON CONCEPTION RATES

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ABSTRACT

Thirty does at the late stage of pregnancy were used in this study, aged 3-5 years and housed under the same environmental conditions in the same locality (Cairoalexandria desert area). All does were given antiparasitic treatment for external and internal parasites. The does were divided into 3 groups, group1 (N=10) used as a control group, group 2 (N=10) supplemented with monensin extract as a premix in a dose of 2.72 mg/head/day for 15 successive days. Group 3 (N=10) Received at: 12/8/2012 were drenched with propylene glycol in a dose of 100 ml/head/day for 15 successive days. The treatment was done at the beginning of 4th month of pregnancy. Serum samples were analysed from all treated and control groups for Accepted: 31/10/2012 blood level of glucose, urea, calcium, triglyceride, total cholesterol, inorganic phosphorous, BHB, NEFA, insulin, liver enzymes and thyroid hormones. Present results revealed that elevation of serum calcium, cholesterol, insulin, glucose, BHB and NEFA in propylene treated group while liver enzymes, total triglycerides and thyroid hormones was decreased followed by monensin treated group in the same manner. The study also illustrated shortened postpartum open days in propylene treated group followed by monensin treated group, while conception rates was significantly increased in propylene drenched group. The study preferred uses of propylene glycol and monensin extract for pregnant does at the late stage of pregnancy for prophylaxis of lamb losses and also for enhancing some fertility parameters.

Key words: Monensin, lamb, Fertility Parameters.

INTRODUCTION

Does are susceptible to severe hypoglycemia and ketosis during the last few weeks of pregnancy, mostly when the does are with twins or triplets (Cheema *et al.*, 1985 and El-Sebaie *et al.*, 1992). Furthermore, it is believed that pregnancy toxemia occurs when does cannot meet the glucose demand to face the increased requirement for rapidly growing fetuses and then hypoglycemia and ketosis develop (Marteniuk and herdt, 1988; Blood and Radositis, 1991).

There was individual variation in the susceptibility and may be basic difference in glucose metabolism between susceptible and non-susceptible animals (Bergman, 1973). The disease is usually seen as an outbreak, when there is inadequate nutrition available or reduction in food intake (Kronfeld, 1972). Less food may be consumed as pregnancy advances because the conceptus occupies abdominal space (Bergman, 1973).

Moreover, intra-abdominal fat diminishes alimentary capacity, thus a pregnant goat specially more fat or carrying twins, consumes less feed just she needs more (kronfeld, 1972). Recently, epidemiological studies have evaluated the factors affecting the occurrence of pregnancy toxemia and were identified as increasing the risk of the disease. These factors are under nutrition, obesity, ruminal foreign body and inadequate weather (El-Sebaie *et al.*, 1992). Pregnancy toxemia in goats is characterized by a syndrome of inappetence, depression, recumbency, and finally coma (Kronfeld, 1972; Bergman, 1973; Heitzman and Herriman, 1977; El-Sebaie *et al.*, 1992).

Monensin is a polyether carboxylic ionophore produced by streptomyces cinnamonesis (Haney and Hoehn, 1967). Ionophores, as feed additives, have been used widely in the beef industry since 1977 to control coccidiosis and improve feed efficiency (Tyler et al., 1992). Monensin shifts the microbial population in the rumen (Bergen and Bates, 1984). By selectively inhibiting gram-positive bacteria rather than gramnegative bacteria due to differences in bacterial cell wall structure. Monensin alters the flux of monovalent ions across the membranes of gram-positive bacteria, disrupting their normal function and causing them to lyse (Duffield and Bagg, 2000).

The effects of monensin supplementation include increased ruminal propionate production and reduction of the ruminal acetate/propionate ratio (Van Maanan *et al.*, 1978). Reduced production of methane (Bartley *et al.*, 1979), increased dry matter and starch digestibility, decreased production of bacterial protein (Schelling, 1984), and increase flow of amino acids in the duodenum (Haimoud *et al.*, 1995).

The Propylene glycol is a glucogenic precursor that has been used for many years for both treatment and prevention of ketosis before and after parturition. The majority of propylene escapes the rumen intact; a portion is metabolized to propionate (Emery et al., 1964). Propylene glycol escaping rumen fermentation is converted to glucose by the liver, primarily via the lactaldehyde pathway and subsequent oxidation to lactate (Miller and Bazzano, 1965). Propylene glycol via drenching or feeding was demonstrated by (Johnson, 1954) to treat ketosis effectively in dairy cows because of its glucogenic property (Hanzlik et al., 1939). Propylene glycol has been shown to increase the concentration of propionate and decrease the ratio of acetate to propionate, thereby resulting in a ruminal VFA pattern that is more glucogenic (Czerkawski and Breckenridge, 1972). Supplementation of propylene to cows has been shown to increase blood insulin and glucose concentrations (Christensen et al., 1997). A drench dose of approximately 500 mL/d or more is often used as a prophylactic treatment for clinical ketosis in dairy cows (Herdt and Emery, 1992). A lower amount of propylene (e.g., 118 mL/d), however, is often drenched to cows after parturition as a preventive for subclinical ketosis. Replacing routine drenching with feeding can reduce stress on the cow and on the person, who does the drenching, reduce the cost of labour, and ultimately improve the overall health and production of dairy cows.

The aim of this study was to detect how to prophylactic the caprine lamb losses in does by using different regimes in the last stage of pregnancy.

MATERIALS and METHODS

Animals

This studies was carried out on 30 balady does of 3-5 years age at the late stage of pregnancy (4-5 month). All of them were subjected to reproductive ultrasonographical scanning for pregnancy diagnosis and it was found that most of them carried 2-3 foeti. All does were belonged to several private sectors of caprine flocks obtained from one locality (high way dessert farms).

All animals were given prophylactic treatment against internal and external parasites. The does were fed on irregular non commercial formulated feed stuffs. The ration generally composed of barseem, hay, grass and sometimes concentrates.

The does were divide into 3 groups, group 1 (n=10) used as a control group, group 2 (n=10) was administrated with monensin sodium (elanco Products, aukland, New Zeland) in the form of premix that contained 10% monensin sodium in a dose of 2.72 mg/kg B.W. for 15 successive days, group 3 (n=10) were fed with propylene glycol in a dose of 100 ml polypropylene glycol as a drench (Chanatol, China Co.) for 15 successive days.

Sampling

Blood samples were collected through jugular vein puncture from each doe. Serum was used for measuring glucose, blood urea nitrogen, total triglycerides, total cholesterol, calcium, inorganic phosphorus, insulin, T3 and T4, serum transaminases (ALT&AST) according to the methods described by, Mgtowan *et al.* (1983); Zapletal (1967); Watson (1960); Sakar and Chauhan (1967); Zilversmit, (1950); Wood (1980); Trinder (1969); Reitman and Frankel, (1957) respectively using the specific kits. While BHB Kits was used for estimation of Beta Hydroxy Buteric acid. These kits was obtained from Sigma, USA according to (Mercer *et al.*, 1986). The NEFA anslysed according to the method of (Duncombe, 1964).

Detection of first estrous in all groups was recorded, also post partum periods and conception rates was recorded for each group after parturition.

Statistical analysis

The data obtained were analyzed statistically for the mean and standered error (S.E.) for each group. Test of significance (T test) was achieved according to Spedecor and Cochran (1989).

RESULTS

The prophylacted does shows a good health and body condition score condititions, while control non treated groups shows signs of moderately ketosis like weakness, inability to stand, sterna recumbency, incoordination and anorexia.

The obtained results of serum biochemical analysis of the control and treated groups were illustrated in Tables (1, 2 and 3).

Table 1 declared that the blood calcium level of propylene treated group (G3) giving the highest significant (P<0.05) mean (11.5 \pm 0.42) followed by monensin treated group (10.4 \pm 0.34), while the non treated control group (G1) giving the low calcium level (8.36 \pm 0.42). Meanwhile blood phosphorous level in monensin treated group (G2) revealed the highest degree followed by G3 then control group G1 (5.52 \pm 0.33, 4.22 \pm 0.34 and 3.86 \pm 0.32 mg/dl respectively).

On the other hand, the concentration of blood urea nitrogen in control group was significantly (P<0.05) increased than monensin and propylene treated groups (30.95 ± 0.38 , 27.05 ± 1.5 and 26.05 ± 1.5 mg% respectively). On the other hand, blood total cholesterol concentration in group 3 revealed a highest level followed by group 2 and the lowest cholesterol concentration was showed in group 1 (67.0 ± 2.84 , 64.0 ± 1.43 and 59.0 ± 2.89 mg% respectively).

The obtained results in Table 2 revealed different values of the analyzed parameters of the treated and control groups. The liver transaminases widely differs along all groups in which blood serum aspartate amino-transferase (AST) in control group G1 getting the highest significant (P<0.05) values, but the monensin and propylene (G2,G3) treated groups having significant no (P<0.05) differences (37.16 ± 2.24) 31.54 ± 2.13 and 30.54±2.43 µ/l respectively), while (ALT) in group 3 giving the lowest significant (P<0.05) value followed by group 2 (27.05±0.81 and 28.04±0.72) while group 1 getting the highest significant (P < 0.05) values (34.0 ± 1.83).

Also Table 2 illustrates undulated values of thyroid hormones between different groups, in which T3 levels having no significant (P<0.05) differences between group 1 and group 2 (1.85 ± 0.06 and 1.53 ± 0.03 nmol/l) but has a low significant (P<0.05) value with group 3 which giving the lowest level (0.34 ± 0.01 nmol/l). On the other hand T4 revealed the highest values in group 1 followed by group 2 and group 3 (52.0 ± 4.0 , 49.2 ± 3.52 and 47.3 ± 2.53 nmol/l respectively). Meanwhile the insulin level in blood of group 3 having a significant (P<0.05) increase $(4.60\pm0.35 \text{ ng/ml})$ followed by group 2 $(3.24\pm0.34 \text{ ng/ml})$ while the lowest value was cleared in group 1 $(2.30\pm0.26 \text{ ng/ml})$.

Table 3 declared that the concentration of total blood glucose in propylene treated group G3 giving a highly significant (P<0.05) results if it is compared with group 2 and control group 1 (52.35 \pm 1.8, 49.68 \pm 1.7 and 46.80± 1.6 mg% respectively). The serum concentration of triglyceride in group 3 resembling the significant (P<0.05) increase then group 2 and group 1 $(56.0 \pm 1.15, 53.0 \text{ v}2.14 \text{ and } 42.0 \pm 2.34 \text{ mg}\%$ respectively). Otherwise the concentration of Beta Hydroxy Buteric acid (BHB) in serum of control group showed a slight significant (P<0.05) differences if it is compared with group 2 and group 3 in which there seems to be similar in serum concentrations $(0.76 \pm 0.10, 0.47 \pm 0.10 \text{ and } 0.45 \pm 0.94 \text{ mmol/!}$ respectively). On the other hand there is no significant (P<0.05) differences between treated and control groups in analysis of Non estratified Fatty Acids (NEFA) $(0.34 \pm 0.22, 0.19 \pm 0.23 \text{ and } 0.31 \pm 0.25$ mmol/l respectively).

Table 4 explain what happen in post partum periods in does treated by monensin and propylene glycol in which the shortest period of open days was cleared in propylene treated group (69.8 ± 2.4) followed by Monensin treated group (86.6 ± 2.3 days) while the largest open days was found in control group ($88.7 \pm$ 3.7 days). On the other side the conception rates was significantly (P<0.05) increased in group 3 then group 2 (84.45 and 80.4 %), but the lowest conception rate was cleared in group 1 (77.8%).

 Table 1: Biochemical changes in calcium, phosphorus, urea and cholesterol of the control and treated groups in does.

Groups	Calcium mg/dl	Phosphorus mg/dl	Urea mg%	Totalcholesterol mg%
Gr. 1	8.63 ± 0.42 c	3.86 ± 0.32 c	$30.95 \pm 0.38a$	59 ± 2.89 c
Gr.2	10.4 ± 0.34 b	5.52 ± 0.33 a	27.05±1.5 b	64 ± 1.43 b
Gr.3	11.5 ± 0.42 a	4.22 ± 0.34 b	26.05 ± 1.5 c	67 ± 2.84 a

*Means with different subscripts (a,b,c) in the same column were significantly differ at(P<0.05).

Fable 2: Values of liver transaminast	s, thyroid hormones and insu	ulin in the control and treat	ed groups in does.
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Groups	AST μ/l	ALT μ/l	T3 nmol/l	T4 nmol/l	Insulin ng/ml
Gr. 1	37.16 ±2.24 a	34 ± 1.83 a	1.85±0.06 a	52.0 ± 4.0 a	2.30±0.26 c
Gr.2	31.54 ±2.13 b	28.04 ± 0.72 b	1.53±0.03 a	49.2±3.52 b	3.24±0.34 b
Gr.3	30.54 ± 2.43 b	27.05± 0.81 c	0.34±0.01 b	47.3±2.53 c	4.60 ± 0.35 a

*Means with different subscripts (a,b,c) in the same column were significantly differ at P<0.05).

Groups	Glucose mg%	TotalTriglyceride mg%	BHB mmol/L	NEFA mmol/L
Gr. 1	46.80 ± 1.6 c	42 ± 2.34 c	0.76 ± 0.10 a	$0.34 \pm 0.22 a$
Gr.2	49.68 ± 1.7 b	53 ± 2.14 b	0.47 ± 0.10 ab	0.19 ± 0.23 a
Gr.3	52.35 ± 1.8 a	56 ± 1.15 a	0.45± 0.94 ab	0.31± 0.25 a

Table 3: Values of blood glucose, triglyceride, BHB and NEFA in the control and treated groups in does.

*Means with different subscripts (a,b,c) in the same column were significantly differ at P<0.05).

Table 4: Open days and Conception rates in the control and treated groups in does.

Groups	Open days	C.R.%
Gr. 1	88.7 ± 3.7 a	77.8 % с
Gr.2	86.6 ± 2.3 b	80.4 % b
Gr.3	69.8 ± 2.4 c	85.45 % a

*Means with different subscripts (a,b,c) in the same column were significantly differ at P<0.05).

DISCUSSION

Lamb losses forms a problems occurring during the last 2 to 4 weeks of gestation in ewes and does. Negative energy balance resulting from increased energy demands of rapid fetal growth in late gestation and insufficient food intake was the main cause of lamb losses in ewes and does. The incidence of pregnancy toxemia is greater in ewes with more than one fetus. Poor quality feed, cold weather, lack of exercise and stress of transportation also may increase the incidence of pregnancy toxemia in does (Bradford and Smith, 1990).

In present study the calcium and glucose follows the same manner in which the levels increases after giving propylene glycol. This agrees with Studer et al. (1993) where they indicated that Propylene glycol is an effective glucogenic agent. This increasing level could a result of increased gluconeogenesis, be glycogenolysis, or both, stimulated by catecholamines and glucocorticoids (Norman and Litwack, 1987). The results revealed that glucose concentrations were slightly affected by monensin treated does. Duffield et al. (1998) found that a significantly higher glucose levels in cows treated with monensin. Monensin could increase the concentrations of glucose in several ways and is known to increase propionic acid in the rumen (Richardson et al., 1976). The end results of propionate metabolism is a net increase in oxaloacetate and glucose (Lean et al., 1992). However, Stephenson et al. (1997) suggested that the prepartum glucose generated by monensin was most likely going to the fetus.

A significant reduction of total serum cholesterol level in the control non treated group in this study may be due to disturbance of metabolism in liver with fat infiltration (El- Bealawy, 2000). These results are rather similar to those obtained by (El-Sayed and Siam, 1994) and (Nasr et al., 1997).

There was a significant decrease in the concentration of total triglycerides in control group in this study. Such decrease may be due to increase uptake of lipid by hepatic cells leading to hepatic lipidosis with consequent reduction in hepatic output of triglycerides with reducing the level of circulating triglyceride. Present results were in agreement with those reported by Smith *et al.* (1997) and Ali (2003) who proved that during pregnancy toxemia, there is usually increased mobilization of Non-Esterified Fatty acids (NEFA) from adipose tissues, which leads to deposition of triglycerides within the hepatocytes and consequently reduces the levels of triglycerides (Vermunt, 2003).

Regarding urea concentrations in blood, present study clarified that in monensin feeding does decreases urea level. This agrees with Ricke *et al.* (1984) who cited that cattle fed no monensin tend to have higher ruminal ammonia concentration, which probably resulted in greater transfer of ammonia into the blood and a subsequent greater loss of nitrogen in urine. Monensin reduced ruminal NH3 concentration (Horton and Stockdale, 1981), primarily by inhibiting deamination and proteolysis of dietary protein (Whetsone *et al.*, 1981).

Results of serum inorganic phosphorous concentrations in response to monensin are in harmony with those reported by Kirk *et al.* (1985) who recorded the apparent increase in absorption and retention of phosphorous of animals fed with monensin. Droke *et al.* (1989) found that feeding of monensin to crossbred lambs increased the absorption of phosphorous. This also agrees with Spears *et al.* (1987) and Badawy (1992).

Regarding NEFA and BHBA and there relations to insulin in our results revealed that there were significant increase of insulin in propylene followed by monensin more than control. On the other hand NEFA and BHBA has a mild effects when giving propylene glycol and monensin at the late stage of pregnancy in does, this agree with (Hoedemaker et al., 2004; Juchem et al., 2004) who have shown increases in insulin and subsequent decreases in NEFA and BHBA concentrations by supplementation of propylene. Chung et al. (2009) said that, responses of plasma NEFA concentration to propylene supplementation showed no differences among treatments.

Propylene glycol seemed to exert a greater effect on NEFA via insulin during extensive body fat mobilization. NEFA are used for oxidative metabolism by some tissues and are incorporated into milk fat; however, excessive mobilization of NEFA results in accumulation of triglycerides in the liver and is detrimental to overall cow health and performance (Drackley *et al.*, 2001). Studer *et al.* (1993) cited that the relative contribution of the gradual increase in plasma NEFA concentration prior to parturition, or the acute surge at parturition, to development of hepatic triglyceride accumulation is not known.

Marked reduction in thyroid hormones was recorded in toxemic cases with inverse relationship between T3 and cholesterol (El- Fayoumy *et al.*, 2006). This agree with Abdou and Iman, (2004) who explained that the pregnancy toxemia affected does are suffering from hypothyroidism and the inverse relation between T3 and cholesterol in poor condition animals was recorded by Baraka and Illek, (2003).

Regarding transaminases activities (ALT, AST) in present results, there was a significant elevation in their activities in the control group in comparison to other treated groups. These results coincided with that previously reported by Radostits *et al.* (2000) in sheep and Abdou (1995) in goat.

Increased serum enzyme activities of Aspartate Amino transferase (AST) and Alainine Amino transferase (ALT) could throw some light on the hepatic origin of caprine ketosis due to fatty mobilization in the body. These results were in agreement with that mentioned by Sakai *et al.* (1996) and Omran *et al.* (2000). The elevation of the liver enzymes is an important diagnostic index in the diseases of liver and biliary system which indicate the presence of liver damage or disruption of hepatic cells due to progressive accumulation of lipid granules, with subsequent increased permeability and leakage of these enzymes into the blood (Radostits *et al.*, 2002 and Yao et *al.*, 2003).

Reproduction in farm animals is closely related with dynamic activity of the thyroid functions (Afiefy, 1966). Azouz *et al.* (1989) observed that decrease of TSH and triiodothyronin in post-partum goats may indicate the independence of follicular growth from increasing levels of thyroid hormones during post partum period.

Present results revealed that conception rates in propylene supplemented group were significantly increased. This agreed with Roche *et al.* (2000) who cited that ketosis results from energy balance defect, has a deleterious effects on follicular growth and CL activity. After oral administration, a portion of propylene is metabolized to propionate (Emery *et al.*, 1964), but the majority of propylene escapes the rumen untransformed to be converted to glucose by the liver, primarily via the lactaldehyde pathway and subsequent oxidation to lactate (Miller and Bazzoano, 1965). Propionate is transported to the liver through the portal system, where it is transformed into pyruvate and eventually glucose via oxalacetate Moore and Ishler (1997).

Regarding open days, the ovarian activity of propylene treated group was highest and giving the lowest duration of open days more than monensin and control groups. Follicle recruitment (Spicer *et al.*, 2002) as well as follicular growth and differentiation (Spicer and Echternkamp, 1995) are stimulated by insulin, which exerts a beneficial influence on the subsequent embryonic development (Telfer *et al.*, 1999). Insulin stimulates the in vitro proliferation and function of granulosa and theca cells (Spicer *et al.*, 1993).

Changes in blood insulin level are closely related to IGF-I concentrations (O'Callaghan and Boland, 1999). Together, insulin and IGF-I affect ovarian function and early embryo development by means of a potent stimulation of bovine granulosa cells (Alvarez *et al.*, 2000), and lead thecal cells to proliferate. On the contrary, with low levels of both IGF-I and insulin, the follicle does not produce adequate levels of estradiol or grow to a size able to trigger the LH surge and ovulation (Beam and Butler, 1999).

From this study, it can be concluded that, under local mangemental and environmental conditions, propylene glycol and monensin can be used safely as a fed supplement for pregnant does at late stages of pregnancy. The both components could help as a prophylactic measure from lamb losses and for improving fertility in term of decreasing open days as well as increasing percentages of conception rates.

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تأثير المونينزن والبروبيلين جليكول كوقاية من تسمم الحمل في الماعز وتأثير هما على نسبة الإخصاب

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أجريت الدراسة على عدد ٢٠ إناث ماعز تتراوح أعمارهم مابين ٣-٥ سنوات في الشهور الأخيرة من الحمل ومتواجدة جميعها في منطقة واحدة (مصر-اسكندرية الصحراوى) وتحت نفس الظروف المعشية والبيينية. تم أعطاء جميع الحيوانات مضادات الطفيليات الداخلية والخارجية. قسمت الحيوانات إلى ثلاث مجموعات- المجموعة الأولى: (١٠ أناث ماعز) لم يتم أعطاؤها أي أضافات وعوملت كمجموعة ضابطة ' المجموعة الثانية : (١٠ أناث ماعز) وتم إعطاؤها مركب مونينزن بمعدل ٢٢. ٢مجم لكل كجم وزن حي لمدة ١٠ يوم أبتداء من الشهر الرابع من الحمل، المجموعة الثالثة: (١٠ أناث ماعز) وتم أعطاؤها مركب مونينزن بمعدل ٢٢. ٢مجم لكل كجم وزن حي لمدة ١٠ يوم أبتداء من الشهر الرابع من الحمل، المجموعة الثالثة: (١٠ أناث ماعز) وتم أعطاؤها مركب مونينزن بمعدل ٢٢. ٢مجم لكل كجم وزن حي لمدة ١٠ يوم أبتداء من الشهر الرابع من الحمل، تم أخذ عينات الدم ماعز) وتم أعطاؤها مركب مونيزن بليكول بمعدل ١٠ اسم عن طريق الفم لمدة ١٠ يوم أبتداء من الشهر الرابع من الحمل. تم أخذ عينات الدم من الإناث المعالجة والمجموعة الضابطة وفصل مصل الدم بعد انتهاء مدة التجريع وتحليل العناصر الثالية: جلوكوز - يوريا-كالسيوم- تراى جليسريد كولستيرول الفسفور غير العضوى NEFA مصل الدم بعد انتهاء مدة التجريع وتحليل العناصر الثالية: جلوكوز بيوريا-ارتفاع نسب الكالسيوم والكوليسترول الكلى والأنسولين الكلى والجلوكوز وNEFA-BHE منابع في المجموعات المعالجة بالبروبيلين جليكول بينما انتفاع نسب الالسيوم والكوليسترول الكلى والأسولين الكلى والجلوكوز وNEFA-BHE في المجموعة المونيترن: كما أظهرت التائيج المفتوحة بعد الولادة وحتى ثبوت العشار في المجموعة المعالجة بالمونيترين كما أظهرت المعالجة المونينزن. كما ثلثهر المفتوحة بعد الولادة وحتى ثبوت العشار في المجموعة المجموعة المعالجة بالمونيتزن. كما ألمورت المانين حمار المنتح أيضا أرتفاع نسب الزيمات الكرد والتراى جليرول الثيروكوني يليها المجموعة المعالجة بمستخلص المونينزن. كما ثلم المفتوحة بعد الولادة وحتى ثبوت العشار في المعلومة بالبروبيلين جليكول يليها المجموعة المعالجة بمستخلص المونينزن. كما ثلم استحباب المفتوحة بعد الولادة وحتى ثبوت العشار في المجموعة المعالجة بالموموعة المعالجة بمستخلص المونينزن. كما أستحباب استحباب المغتوحة المرزم ولينا مستخلص المونينيزن في إلى الماعز العشار في المعموة المعالجة ما