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ABSTRACT FORM

Reduced viability of *Taenia solium* cysticerci following antigenic challenge in pigs.

Carlton Evans*, Armando Gonzalez, Robert Gilman, Manuela Verastegui, Hugo Garcia, Alfonso Chavera, & The Cysticercosis Working Group in Peru.

*Department of Medicine, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ, UK.

T. solium cysticercosis is a common cause of human neurological disease in developing countries. Porcine cysticercosis contributes to economic hardship and is an essential stage in the parasite life-cycle. A treatment for infected pigs may be an effective way of controlling the parasite and preventing human disease. Our blinded randomised placebo-controlled study assessed the efficacy and safety of immunotherapy in 28 naturally infected pigs. Four weight-matched groups were inoculated with purified cysticercal antigen, crude cysticercal antigen with Freund's adjuvant, adjuvant alone or saline alone. Immunotherapy was well tolerated but had no effect upon the macroscopic appearance or histology of cysticerci. Most of the pigs given crude antigen plus adjuvant developed new antibody bands on electro-immuno transfer blot and the crude antigen caused a significant increase (from 10% to 34%, $p < 0.04$) in the proportion of cysticerci that failed to evaginate and were therefore not viable for causing human infection.

Name CARLTON EVANS Title Dr
Address DEPT MEDICINE (BOX 157)
ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL
Town CAMBRIDGE
County..... Postcode CB2 2QQ
Tel: 01223-336143 Fax: 01223-336846

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