

Dietary Milk Consumption and the Pesticide Residues Exposure from Pasteurized and UHT samples

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Abstract

The multi residue analysis with QuEChERS sample preparation method was employed to evaluate cow milk samples containing up to 3% of fat. After the cleanup step with C18, the pesticides were analyzed by Agilent 7890A GC and 7000B Triple Quadrupole GC/MS/MS System. Two analytical methods were established, for screening andfor quantification. The quantitativemethod was validated in terms of recovery and reproducibility. A total of 28 samples of milk (pasteurized and UHT) purchased at Sao Paulo markets were evaluated by these two methods. The pesticides chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin were the most frequent, probably due to their use intick controlin bovines. All the positive sample results were below the LOQ and the acute dietary intake parameter was not extrapolated. The method was feasible for the propose of monitoring the food quality in which content of fat at 3% can compromise the chromatography system if the cleanup is not enough.

Keywords: Pesticide Residues; Milk; Multi residue Method; QuEChERS; LOQ

Abbreviations: MCL: Maximum Concentration Levels; UHT: Ultra-Heated Treatment; PNCRC: National Program of Animal Control of Residues and Contaminants; ADI: Acceptable Dietary Intake.

Introduction

An essential source of nutrients for all ages is cow milk. Brazil is the fourth great producers in the world with 34 billion of liters in 2013 according to Livestock and Agricultural Ministry and around 100g per day of milk and dairy products are consumed by an adult [1]. In fact, children and elderly people consume almost a liter per day and their exposure to contaminants in milk is a health risk concern. Governmental Agencies, in general, check the compliance of the milk and its adulteration, frauds and particularly microbiological control. However, many compounds like pesticides can be secreted to the milk bycontaminated feed consumption and parasite control application. Pesticides represent a risk to human, environmental and animal health; the evaluation of such compounds should involve monitoring programs on food control, especially for chemical persistent contaminants and misuse of such substances during food production.

There is a constant concern regarding the environmental contamination like drinking water and soil that can lead to contaminate humans and animals [2,3]. Nevertheless, we have no consistent values for maximum concentration levels (MCL) from many jurisdictions that

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should guarantee that there is no risk due to the exposition to those pesticides from contaminated environment and food.

This study evaluated the presence of pesticide in milk mainly originated from application of veterinary drugs of those persistent compounds for pest control and in minor proportion due to environmental contamination through water and soil. Brazilian regulation controls the presence of some substances that are used directly on the animal or to the places that they stay mostly. To verify the presence and its concentration of those substances in consumed milk, this study focused the analysis of those compounds commonly allowed to use according to MAPA and some others to CODEX specification for pesticide in milk.

Animal products like milk, can accumulate pesticides residues through contaminated feed, grass/hay and veterinary drugs used to control endo and ectoparasites. Such substances have fat solublechemical characteristics, contributing to its residual presence. Brazilian Maximum Residues Level enforcement, normative nº13 compiles mycotoxins, antibiotics, carbamates, organophosphorus and pyrethroids insecticides and acaricides as regulated substances [4]. The organochlorinated compounds had its use prohibited by legislation no. 329 in the 80's and the national programs do not investigate anymore. However, it was used until ninety's in some specific situation like public health campaign and vector control diseases.

Considering the importance of milk and dairy products in human health, thereare few articles published for monitoring pesticide residues in milk in Brazil Ciscato, et al. Freguglia, et al. Pagnani, et al. [5-7]. The present work has the objective of evaluate the milk samples collected in supermarkets. Positive samples were compared to legislation and their toxicological contributions were evaluated.

Materials and Methods

Milk Samples

Today, the most common milk found in supermarkets is Ultra-Heated Treatment (UHT) type nevertheless pasteurization process is frequently used. Both processes are used to control bacteria's growth. Such process can extend the shelf life as well as affect the pesticide residues concentration. Milk homogenization is another type of milk process, which consists in maintain the integrity of lipids and aqueous phases. Chemical constituents of milk are lipids, water, proteins, vitamins, mineral salts, which their quantity depend on the animal species and the period of the year. Brazilian cattle produce milk with almost 6% of lipids. According to legislation, the dairy producers can reduce such percentage up to 3% so it can be considered as whole milk. Therefore, all samples purchased were this type of milk with 3% of fat content (except organic milk) making possible to have enough sample cleanup using QuEChERS method with C18 in the cleanup step.

It was collected 28 samples of milk, half of them in the first semester to verify the presence of pesticides according to climate characteristics in the period. The categories organic (6% of lipids), pasteurized and UHT (both 3% of lipids) were evaluated for pesticide residues.

Pesticides

The pesticides used to verify the method are some listed in National Program of Animal Control of Residues and Contaminants (PNCRC and from Codex Alimentarius [1,8]. They are from classes like organochlorines, PCBs, representative organophosphorus, carbamates and pyrethroids. The acaricide amitraz largely used in Brazil was evaluated, as well the DMF (2,4 dimethylphenyl formamidine) metabolite. The legislation allows the usage of such substances, however, the withdrawal period described on drug leaflet, which can range between some hours to some days, according to the substances after its pulverization, bath or application should be followed [9]. Other pesticides commonly used as tick control, such as ivermectin group, were not evaluated in this study because of the compound's characteristics which are unsuitable for gas chromatography technique.

Acceptable Dietary Intake (ADI) and Ccalpha/CCbeta Criteria

The criteria were evaluated for positive samples and considered the concentration found in the sample, the consumption data from National Institute the limits from recovery samples and the calibration curves [10].

Pesticide residue contribution was calculated employing the principles from JMPR (Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues) in which update and expand the report of the Joint FAO/WHO consultation on Food Consumption and Exposure Assessment [11]. According to these principles, the acceptable dietary intake is calculated in mg/person/day or mg/body weight/day considering the body weight (bw) of an adult as 60 kg and the concentration of chemical in food by food consumption.

The values from dietary exposure were compared with the ADI (%ADI <100) and the percentage of pesticide residue contribution was calculated. The Cc alpha/CC beta parameters were calculated as established by MAPA [1].

Quality Control

To achieve the international requirements, the LRP is accredited in ISO 17025. The validation studies accomplished the criteria for analytical performance Thompson, et al. [12]. The LRP participate annually in proficiency testing schemes with satisfactory performances. The recoveries are generally in 70 to 120%.

Reagents and Analytical Standards

Acetonitrile, isooctane, and acetone were pesticideresidue grade. Pure standards from AccuStandard, around 99% pure, were used to prepare stock solutions at 1,000 ng/ μ L and working solutions that varied in concentration.

Analytical Steps

The extraction was performed using 10 g of bovine milk and 10 mL of acetonitrile, after shaking, QuEChERS salts (4 g MgSO₄, 1 g NaCl, 1 g Na citrate, and 0.5 g disodium citrate sesquihydrate) were added and agitated for 2 minutes. The presence of 3% of fat in bovine milk affect commercialized in Brazil could the chromatographic performance requiring more maintenance. Therefore, fat acids were removed by using a subsequent dispersive cleanup designed to include fat removal, the SPE Dispersive containing 150 mg PSA, 150 mg C18EC, and 900 mg MgSO₄.

Fortified Samples

The same procedure was used to evaluate the spiked samples. The recovery study was carried out to determine method accuracy and precision spiking blank matrix at 1 MRL level which was determined as Limit of Quantification (LOQ) of the method. A 100 µl of mixture of pesticides: Acephate, Aldrin, Amitraz, Azinphos-ethyl, Azinphos-methyl, BHC-alpha, BHC-beta, BHC-delta, BHCgamma. Carbaryl, Carbofuran, Chlorfenvinphos, Chlorpyrifos, Chlorpyrifos-methyl, Cyfluthrin I, Cyfluthrin II, Cyfluthrin III, Cyfluthrin IV, Cyhalothrin (lambda), Cypermethrin I (Zeta), Cypermethrin II, Cypermethrin IV, DDD-o, p', DDD-p, p', DDE-o,p', DDE-p,p', DDT-o,p', DDTp,p', Deltamethrin, Diazinon, Dichlorvos, Dieldrin, Disulfoton, DMF, Dimethoate, Endosulfan alpha, Endosulfan beta, Endosulfan sulfate, Endrin, Ethion, Fenitrothion, Fenpropathrin, Fenvalerate I, Fenvalerate II, Flumetralin. Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxido. Hexachlorobenzene, Methidathion, Methoxychlor, p,p'-, Mevinphos, Mirex, PCB #101, PCB #138, PCB #153, PCB #180, PCB #28, PCB #52, Pirimiphos-methyl, Propoxur, ranged from 5 ng/ μ l to 10 ng/ μ l were used.

Calibration curves were prepared at six levels in concentrations ranging from 0.004 to 0.1 according to MRL and the substance. The results from the spiked samples were used to calculate the CC alpha and CC beta which ranged from 0.0002 to 0.003 for CC alpha and 0.0043 to 0.055 for CC beta.

The GC/MS/MS triple quadrupole system was configured according to the Agilent Pesticide Analyzer 412 configuration, featuring a 2 units of 15 m analytical column with midcolumn backflush.

Conditions, GC

Two methods were used during the analysis, a screening method with around 260 active substances with 40 minutes run time and quantification method.

Quantification, calibration curve and CC alpha/CC beta parameters were obtained by a total of 20.75 min run time and retention time locking to chlorpyrifos-methyl at 9.143. The method characteristics are: Agilent GC 7890A with column: Agilent J&W HP-5msUI, 15 m x 0.25 mm, 0.25 μ m (2 units); Inlet: Split/splitless; Inlet liner: Splitless, single taper, Ultra Inert liner with glass wool; Carrier: Helium, Inlet flow (column 1): 1mL/min (constant flow mode) during run, 2 psi during backflush, PUU flow (column 2): column 1 flow + 0.2 mL/min; Inlet temp: 280°C; Inj. Vol.: 1 μ L; Purge flow to split vent: 30 mL/min at 0.75 min; Gas saver: On (20 mL/min at 2.0 min); Oven temp: 60°C (1min), 40°C/min to 170°C (0min), 10°C/min to 310°C (0min), 16°C/min to 280°C (3 min).

The screening method also locked for chlorpyrifosmethyl at 18.811 min. and a total run of 40.5 min. The same equipment with change at Oven temp: 60°C (1min), 40°C/min to 120°C (0min), 40°C/min to 310°C (0min), 5°C/min.

Conditions, MS

Spectrometer: Agilent 7000B Triple Quadrupole GC/MS System; Electron Impact; transfer line temp: 280°C; solvent delay: 2.3 min; source temp: 300°C and Quadrupole temp: Q1 and Q2 = 180°C.

Results and Discussion

The UHT and pasteurized bovine milk were purchased at local groceries. Fourteen brands were selected and purchased twice; half in the middle of the year and the rest in the end of the year. These separate purchases were intended to have two sets of samples to check if the application of parasite control drug on the animals will differ by season.

The blank samples were spiked with concentrations of 1 MRL, most of the compounds listed before had recovery in the range of 60 to 120% and RSD below 20%, frequently used for routine analysis using multi-residues methods [13]. Spiked samples presented some interesting results: the acaricide amitraz, frequently used for tick control was decomposed to DMF (N-(2, dimethylphenyl) formamide) metabolite and DMA (low level). The pH of the extract probably interfered the stability of this compound, which was observed the same by Hornish, et al., Korta, et al Marutoiu, et al. [14-17] Another metabolite, the DMA (2,4)dimethyl formanilidine), was used to calculate the concentration of amitraz. The organophosphorus insecticide trichlorfon also was metabolized to dichlorvos. For this reason, the concentration of dichlorvos was out of the recovery range not making possible to determine the exact value for this compound. The decomposition of trichlorfon to dichlorvos happens due to the high temperature of GC inlet [18].

Total of 28 samples were analyzed and the results using the CC alpha/CC beta, LOD/LOQ parameters were: positive to chlorpyrifos: 19 samples; one sample positive to cyproconazole+chlorpyrifos; 15 samples positive for cypermethrin+chlorpyrifos; one sample positive for prometrin+chlorpyrifos+cypermethrin; one sample positive for fluquinconazole and one sample positive for tebuconazole+chlorpyrifos.

Pesticide	Pesticides found in the samples						
	>Ccalpha/CCbeta	>LOD	>LOQ				
Chlorpyrifos	19	4					
Cyproconazole	1						
Cypermethrin	15		1				
Fluquinconazole	1						
Prometrin	1						
Tebuconazole	1						

Table 1: Positive samples according to CC alpha/CC beta, above LOD and LOQ parameters.

The screening method were created to identify more compounds and quantitation method from spiked samples made possible to quantify the pesticides chlorpyrifos in four samples and cypermethrin in one sample, all below LOQ but above LOD. Table 1 shows the recoveries of pesticides in the quantification method. Samples detected with chlorpyrifos. had its concentrations of 0.0022, 0.003, 0.0033 and 0.0026 mg/kg. The LOD ranged from 0.0005 to 0.03, chlorpyrifos is 0.002 mg/kg and LOQ ranged from 0.004 to 0.1, chlorpyrifos was 0.01 mg/kg. For cypermethrin the LOQ is 0.1 and LOD is 0.0290 mg/kg and concentration detected in the sample was 0.0370 mg/kg.

	Analyte	Brazil	Codex	Matrix	LOD	LOQ	Rec %	RSD %	Measurement uncertainty – Codex b	
		IN 13 2015	2015					n=6	Horwitz	yes/no
1	Acephate	0.02	0.02	cow milk	0.0041	0.02	94	7.3	0.0115	yes
2	Aldrin	0.004	0.006	cow milk	0.0009	0.004	106	7.5	0.0029	yes
3	Amitraz		0.01	cow milk	0.0045	0.01	125	11.7	0.0064	yes
4	Azinphos-ethyl	0.05		cow milk	0.0101	0.05	105	6.4	0.0251	yes
5	Azinphos-methyl	0.05		cow milk	0.0101	0.05	104	6.5	0.0251	yes
6	BHC-alpha	0.008		cow milk	0.0015	0.008	107	5.9	0.0053	yes
7	BHC-beta	0.008		cow milk	0.0017	0.008	108	6.5	0.0053	yes
8	BHC-delta	0.008		cow milk	0.0019	0.008	105	7.5	0.0053	yes
9	BHC-gamma	0.004		cow milk	0.0009	0.008	107	7.3	0.0029	yes
10	Carbaryl	0.02	0.05	cow milk	0.0104	0.05	109	15.9	0.0115	yes
11	Carbofuran	0.1	0.05	cow milk	0.0369	0.1	106	11.6	0.0453	yes
12	Chlorfenvinphos	0.01	0.01	cow milk	0.0022	0.01	116	6.5	0.0064	yes
13	Chlorpyrifos	0.01	0.02	cow milk	0.0022	0.01	111	6.7	0.0064	yes
14	Chlorpyrifos-methyl			cow milk	0.0024	0.01	109	7.3	0.0064	yes
15	Cyfluthrin I	0.04	0.01	cow milk	0.0102	0.04	112	7.7	0.0208	yes
16	Cyfluthrin II			cow milk	0.0117	0.04	105	9.2	0.0208	yes
17	Cyfluthrin III			cow milk	0.0178	0.04	93	15	0.0208	yes

18	Cyfluthrin IV			cow milk	0.0126	0.04	111	9	0.0208	yes
19	Cyhalothrin (lambda)	0.025	0.2	cow milk	0.0072	0.04	97	9.8	0.0200	yes
20	Cypermethrin I (Zeta)	0.025	0.05	cow milk	0.0072	0.2	108	8.9	0.0453	yes
21	Cypermethrin II	0.1	0.05	cow milk	0.0328	0.1	103	10.7	0.0453	yes
22	Cypermethrin IV			cow milk	0.0234	0.1	105	7.2	0.0453	yes
23	DDD-o,p'	0.01		cow milk	0.0017	0.01	107	5.3	0.0064	yes
24	DDD-p,p'	0.01		cow milk	0.0023	0.01	111	6.8	0.0064	yes
25	DDE-o,p'	0.01		cow milk	0.0018	0.01	120	5	0.0064	yes
26	DDE-p,p'	0.01		cow milk	0.0010	0.01	104	6.3	0.0064	yes
27	DDT-o,p'	0.01	0.02	cow milk	0.0016	0.01	101	5	0.0064	yes
28	DDT-p,p'	0.01	0.02	cow milk	0.0017	0.01	100	5.7	0.0064	yes
29	Deltamethrin	0.01	0.02	cow milk	0.0158	0.01	103	17.1	0.0163	yes
30	Diazinon	0.03	0.03	cow milk	0.0021	0.03	113	6	0.0064	yes
31	Dichlorvos	0.01	0.02	cow milk	0.0056	0.01	137	13.7	0.0064	yes
32	Dieldrin	0.004	0.001	cow milk	0.0005	0.001	113	3.7	0.0029	yes
33	Dimethoate	0.001	0.000	cow milk	0.0009	0.01	108	5.8	0.0064	yes
34	Disulfoton		0.00	cow milk	0.0021	0.01	108	6.4	0.0064	yes
35	DIStricton		0.01	cow milk	0.0015	0.01	100	4.7	0.0064	yes
36	Endosulfan alpha		0.01	cow milk	0.0013	0.01	107	9	0.0064	yes
37	Endosulfan beta		0.01	cow milk	0.0023	0.01	115	6.5	0.0064	yes
38	Endosulfan sulfate		0.01	cow milk	0.0023	0.01	110	6.4	0.0064	yes
39	Endrin	0.004	0.001	cow milk	0.0021	0.001	110	7.7	0.0029	yes
40	Ethion	0.001	0.000	cow milk	0.0024	0.01	113	7.1	0.0064	yes
41	Fenitrothion		0.01	cow milk	0.0024	0.01	115	7	0.0064	yes
42	Fenpropathrin		0.01	cow milk	0.0186	0.01	113	5.8	0.0453	yes
43	Fenvalerate I	0.04	0.1	cow milk	0.0136	0.04	107	11.2	0.0208	yes
44	Fenvalerate II	0.01	0.1	cow milk	0.0075	0.04	101	6	0.0208	yes
45	Flumetralin			cow milk	0.0025	0.01	112	7.5	0.0064	yes
46	Heptachlor	0.004	0.006	cow milk	0.0007	0.004	109	5	0.0029	yes
47	Heptachlor epoxido	0.004	0.000	cow milk	0.0014	0.004	111	10.4	0.0029	yes
48	Hexachlorobenzene	0.008		cow milk	0.0014	0.008	101	5.8	0.0053	yes
49	Methidathion	0.02	0.001	cow milk	0.0046	0.02	114	6.8	0.0115	yes
50	Methoxychlor, p,p'-	0.004		cow milk	0.001	0.004	115	6.9	0.0029	yes
51	Mevinphos	0.05		cow milk	0.0082	0.05	110	5	0.0251	yes
52	Mirex	0.004		cow milk	0.0006	0.004	95	5.6	0.0029	yes
53	PCB #101	0.008		cow milk	0.0015	0.01	110	4.6	0.0064	yes
54	PCB #138	0.008		cow milk		0.01	102	5.7	0.0064	yes
55	PCB #153	0.008	1	cow milk	0.0019	0.01	102	6.3	0.0064	yes
56	PCB #180	0.008	1	cow milk	0.0015	0.01	98	5.3	0.0064	yes
57	PCB #28	0.008	1	cow milk	0.0017	0.01	115	4.8	0.0064	yes
58	PCB #52	0.008	1	cow milk	0.0018	0.01	113	5.4	0.0064	yes
59	Pirimiphos-methyl	0.05	0.01	cow milk	0.0089	0.05	116	5.1	0.0251	yes
60	Propoxur	0.05	-	cow milk	0.0133	0.05	107	8.2	0.0251	yes

Table 2: Maximum residues levels from Brazil (b, 2015), Codex alimentarius and recovery results [19].

None of these substances detected hasMRL established by the government for milk samples. Fluquinconazole has a MRL for soybean; prometrin has MRL for cotton crop and tebuconazole can be employed in corn production and also as preservative for wood used to build the fences. The substances chlorpyrifos, cyproconazole and cypermethrin have a MRL established for corn and also as a preservative for wood fences. Chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin can be found in veterinary formulas to control ticks in cattle, and the milk cannot be consumedbefore 3 days after application. Their presence in the samples therefore, could be associated to intensive

use of anti-parasite control (ticks), feed and environment exposure. The acute dietary ingestion (ADI) of such compounds are between 0.01 mg/kg to 0.05 mg/kg. Since the values were below the LOQ the % of ADI were not extrapolated.

Although milk and milk products participate as one of the most important food item in children, adult and elderly diet, in Brazil, most of the analysis is to control microbiological diseases, anti-microbiological SO substances are frequently investigated. Some authors analyzed milk samples, Ciscato, et al. Heck, et al. Asmus, et al. Freguglia, et al., Pagnani, et al. [20,5,21,22,6,7] in Brazil and they observed that organochlorine pesticides were the most important group evaluated. Another observation is that the major part of the contamination in milk is through feed. Heck, et al. [22] have evaluated the Northeast area of Brazil and related that feed contributed pesticides residues in milk. especially to organophosphorus, carbamates and pyrethroids, as presented in the present work.

Despite of organochlorine characteristics, such as environmental contaminant and accumulation in the fat tissues, it was used until 80's in Brazil. However, no residues of such compounds, even PCBs were found in the samples evaluated in this study, probably the high temperature and the removal of extra % of fat (Brazilian milk has 3% of fat) contributed to decrease or to eliminate these substances.

Multiple residues were also observed in 80% of the positive samples, chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin were the main combination. Multiple findings could be a risk to human health and if the compounds share the same mode of action it could be a serious problem Boobis, et al. [23].

Individual compounds that are present at low levels with no effects could result in a measurable effect when combined with compounds in same levels. All the substances found in this work have the ADI parameter between 0.01 mg/kg bw to 0.05 mg/kg bw. The acute reference dose (ARfD) does not exist for these substances, according to Jardim & Caldas, 2009 only substances with potential carcinogenic or genotoxic have this parameter established [24-26].

Conclusions

The samples analyzed contained 3% of fat and the presence of such substance did not interfere in the cleanup step. Therefor the QuEChERS method with C18 was enough and no further cleanup was necessary.

The compounds amitraz and trichlorfon, used as mite control in the cattle could be metabolized during the extraction or chromatographic analysis, probably because of the pH below 5.5 during extraction and by the injector's temperature. Dairy products with acid pH and the presence of some microorganisms can affect the analysis too.

The removal of extra fat content of the milk probably could interfere in the reduction of organochlorine pesticides in milk samples. Industrial treatments as pasteurization and ultra-high temperature could also reduce the presence of some pesticides. Therefore, although detecting residues of organophosphate pesticides in some samples, its concentrations did not represent a health concern.

Monitoring studies and methods which demands a short time of analysis are important to evaluate the food quality, especially for those like milk due to the large consumption of this product mainly by the infants, that compared to adults, toxicity level is more significant by their low mass weight.

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