

NEUTROPHILS ACTIVITY OF RATS TREATED WITH KEFIR
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This work evaluated the immune activity of neutrophils from rats treated with the probiotic kefir. Cytokine TNF- α levels, cell recruiting, cellular metabolism, neutrophils oxygen uptake, H₂O₂ production, and myeloperoxidase screening were conducted. Wistar rats received 1,0 ml of kefir solution as test group, 1,0 ml of NaCl 0,9 % solution as negative control group and 100 mg/kg of α -tocopherol or 0,5 mg/kg of dexamethasone, when suitable, for the positive control group, during 7 days. Results were analyzed by mean \pm SEM, following comparison tests of SNK and t-Student. Mean differences were found in kefir and negative control groups, in cell recruiting assays ($P < 0.05$), hydrogen peroxide formation stimulated by forbol ester ($P < 0.05$) and myeloperoxidase identification ($P < 0.01$). In cell recruiting assay, kefir, positive and negative control presented $12.0 \pm 1.0 \times 10^6$, $7.3 \pm 1.4 \times 10^6$ and $17.2 \pm 1.9 \times 10^6$ neutrophils/mL, respectively. H₂O₂ formation stimulated by forbol ester resulted 1.46 ± 0.16 , 2.14 ± 0.18 ($P < 0.05$) and 1.50 ± 0.22 ($P > 0.05$) fmol/cell, for kefir, negative and positive groups, respectively. Myeloperoxidase activity presented values of 54.8 ± 3.0 %, 47.3 ± 5.7 %, and 74.0 ± 1.9 % for kefir, positive and negative groups, respectively. Summarizing, kefir decreased the response of neutrophils in treated rats.