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Photolysis of sodium chloride and sodium hypochlorite by ultraviolet light inactivates the trophozoites and cysts of *Acanthamoeba castellanii* in the water matrix

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The present study aimed to investigate an effective, sustainable and accessible way to inactivate chlorine-resistant microorganisms such as *Acanthamoeba castellanii*, through the photolysis of sodium chloride (NaCl) and sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) in the water matrix. The of trophozoites and cysts (2x10⁷ per 8 mL) were exposed for 30, 60, 90, 120 and 150 minutes to the photolysis effect of NaOCl (1.0, 2.0, 4.0, 8.0 mg/L) or NaCl (5.0, 10, 20, 40 g/L) by ultraviolet light C (243µW.cm²), then the viability was analyzed. The inactivation of all trophozoites was achieved by exposure to the photolysis effect of 2.0 mg/L of NaOCl or 20 g/L of NaCl, in 150 or 120 minutes, respectively. Inactivation of all cysts was achieved by double exposure to the photolysis effect of 1.0 mg/L NaOCl or 5.0 g/L NaCl from 90 minutes of each exposure round. The exposure time was a strong determinant in the inactivation of *A. castellanii* trophozoites or cysts. The photolysis of NaOCl or NaCl is an effective method to eliminate *A. castellanii* in water. These findings expand the list of chlorine-resistant microorganisms that can be inactivated by NaOCl photolysis and shows that NaCl photolysis is a new and promising method for treating swimming pools water and wastewater.

Keywords: *Acanthamoeba castellanii*, disinfection, advanced oxidation processes, free-living amoebae, photolysis.

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