

# Application of ozonated water to maintain the quality of chicken meat: effect of exposure time, temperature, and ozone concentration

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**Abstract.** As an environmentally friendly disinfectant, ozone now is being studied as an alternative to chlorine sanitizers in many segments of the food industry. The use of ozone as a superficial disinfectant of meat surfaces has been reported in the meat industry. Few studies on the use of ozone in chicken meat have been reported. Ozonated water treatments improve the quality and extend the shelf life of chicken meat. This research studied the effect of exposure time (40, 80, and 120 min), temperature contact (3, 26, and 37 °C), and ozone concentration (0.21 and 0.38 mg/l) in the optimization of ozonated in effort maintain the quality of chicken meat. The observed quality parameters were total number of aerobic mesophyll bacteria, pH, water content, and protein content. The results show that longer exposure time and lower temperature could lower the rate of decreasing quality in chicken meat. Ozonated water with 0.38 mg/l of ozone concentration is contacted with chicken fillet for 120 minutes at 3°C, it reduced aerobic mesophilic bacteria by 1 unit log cfu/g. The ozone concentrations of 0.21 and 0.38 were able to disinfect total aerobic mesophilic bacteria of 0.42 and 0.89 log cfu/g respectively. There was no significant effect on pH and chicken water content, but protein content decreased by 1%.

## 1 Introduction

Indonesia is a country with high consumption of chicken meat. The average consumption of chicken meat in Indonesian society is 1.11 million tons/year with chicken meat production in Indonesia reaching 1.48 million tons per year (Outlook of Chicken Meat, 2016).

Despite the benefit of chicken meat as a affordable source of animal protein, chicken meat is also easily damaged. Rapid growth of microorganisms can change the quality of chicken meat.

**Table 1.** Terms of Microbiological Quality

No.	Type	Unit	Counts
1.	Total Mesophilic Aerobic	cfu/g	Max. 10 <sup>7</sup>
2.	Coliform	cfu/g	Max. 10 <sup>2</sup>
3.	Staphylococcus aureus	cfu/g	Max. 10 <sup>2</sup>
4.	Salmonella sp	per 25 gr	Negative
5.	Escherichia coli	cfu/g	Max. 10 <sup>1</sup>

(Sources: Indonesian National Standardization, 2009)

The methods currently used to maintain the quality of chicken meat include marinating, drying, and storage at cooler temperature 2-10 °C and freezing at 2 - (-24) °C. The bad side of marinating and drying is shifting the texture and taste of the chicken meat itself. While the

cooling method requires intensive energy, thus higher cost. In addition, storage at low temperatures does not reduce the numbers of bacteria living inside chicken meat. It is only slowing down the growth rate of bacteria.

One of the food storage technologies capable of deactivating contaminant bacteria is by ozonation method. Ozone has been used to control odor, remove colors, decompose organic compounds, and disinfect pathogenic microorganisms in water and air. These powerful ozone-oxidation effects have been observed in various reactions even before the ozone molecule formula itself is discovered. In 1868, ozone was used to convert oil-oil mixtures into products that could be utilized as paints, varnishes, and clothing dyes. In 1870 patented an ozone-producing apparatus that could remove the smell of sewer (Rodríguez et al., 2008).

The effects of eradication of bacteria by ozone have been researched and documented. Leusink (2010) has proven that ozone is able to reduce the amount of Escherichia coli found. The effectiveness of ozone performance depends on the type and immunity of bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens against the dose of ozone, as well as the contact time of ozone with microorganisms (EPA, 1999a) in vegetables watercress and carrots.

However, the efficacy of ozone treatment on microbial reduction may be affected by many variables, such as bacterial contamination, form of ozone application, type of food surface, time of contact between ozone and foods,

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pH, temperature, chemical additives in the food, and the physicochemical composition of seafood (de Mendonça Silva, 2016).

Considering that chicken meat is one of the most common food in the world and in meat products industry, the use of ozone technology during chicken meat processing should be evaluated. In this study, an ozonated water was contacted with chicken meat, with immersion technique, to evaluate the effect of using water method in maintaining the quality of chicken meat.

## 2 Methodology/Experimental

This study consists of two parts, which are the preparation of the ozonated water and the initial characterization.

### 2.1 Chicken Meat Preparation

Chicken meat that is used in this research is in the form of fillet or boneless. Chicken fillet is purchased one 12 hours before being treated with ozonated water. It is obtained from "Ranch Market" Pondok Indah, Jakarta. The chicken fillet was initially washed with distilled water before being used as sample in the freezer afterwards.

Sample is cut and weighted into a uniform size before being placed in each contactor. Each sample's weight is 100 grams. Sterile knife is used when cutting the fillet.

### 2.2 Ozonated Water Preparation

Ozonated water was prepared by ozonating tap water with a middle scale ozone generator (Aquasuper) and used immediately after the desired ozone concentration was achieved. The system was equipped with an erlenmeyer as a contact tank and gas inlet tube fitted with a stone bubbler-type diffuser. Ozone gas was produced from dry air by means of a corona discharge generator with a capacity of 523 grams ozone/h.

The tap water pH is 5.10 and has *E.coli* content of 1.8 cfu/g. Compared to bacteria contaminant standard in raw water, the maximum number of *E.coli* is 10 cfu/g. Thus, it is considered a fine raw water for this ozone treatment

The N,N'-diethyl-p-phenylenediamine (DPD) reagent was used to determine the ozone concentration in water (Merck cat no. 1.00607.0001) and then concentrations were measured by spectrophotometer.

### 2.3 Treatment of Samples

About 100 grams portion of chicken fillet were immersed in 100 ml of ozone solutions for 120 min at 26 °C. The container used is a transparent Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) with capacity of 200 ml, size 59 mm in diameter and 92 mm in height.

To determine the effect of temperature on the efficacy of ozone treatment, all the parameter qualities studied at three exposure time (40, 80, 120 min) at 26 °C. temperature levels (3, 26 and 37 °C) at 0.38 mg/l ozone concentration for 120 min. Optimization was done according to ozone concentration, with comparison of 0.21 and 0.38 mg/l.

After immersion finished, the ozonated water were removed from the container until dry and then the container was sealed and moved into chiller 3 °C for 168 hours after. The characteristics of sample were tested on the next 0, 1, 72, 120, and 168 hours. The parameter quality tested including total mesophilic aerobic bacteria, pH, water content, and protein.

## 2.4 Quality Analysis

### 2.4.1 Microbiological Analysis

Total mesophilic aerobic bacteria is measured by the total plate count (TPC) method, resulting in log colony forming unit per gram of sample (log cfu/g). Shredded chicken fillet samples (25 g) were transferred into 225 mL of 0.1% sterile peptone water and homogenized for 2 min in a stomacher blender (Seward Model 4000, AGB Sci., Dublin, Ireland). One milliliter of the slurry was serially diluted in 0.1 g/100 g peptone water and inoculated onto the enumeration media. Aerobic mesophilic bacteria counts were enumerated using Plate Count Agar (PCA, Oxoid, Basingstoke, UK) after incubation at 30 °C for 48 h and at 3 °C for 168 hours, respectively.

### 2.4.2 pH

pH was measured using a commercial pH meter from Eutech Instruments 700 (Eutech Instruments, Thermo-Fisher Scientific, Singapore).

### 2.4.3 Water Content

Water content is determined by performing AOAC (Association of Official and Analytical Chemists) method, with equipments such as porcelaine plate, oven, and dessicator.

### 2.4.4 Protein Content

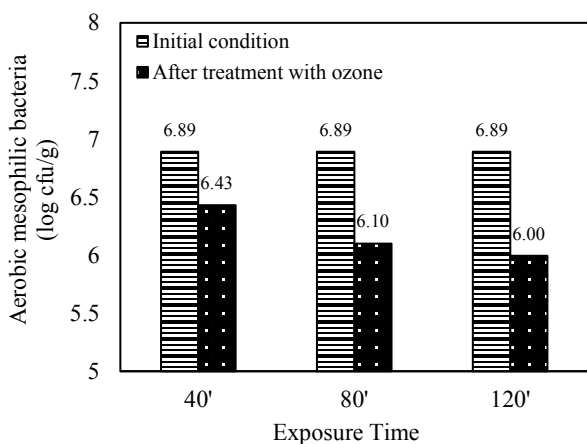
The percentage of protein content is measured with Kjeldahl method. 2 grams of the chicken fillet was transferred into 500ml Kjeldahl flask. Then 2.5g of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was added by shaking gently 25ml of concentrated tetraoxosulphate VI acid an oxidizing agent which digest the food, and a speck of selenium was added to serves as a catalyst, to the sample in the Kjeldahl flask. The flask was then set up in slanting position on the Bunsen burner inside the fume cupboard and then heated strongly till the mixture was bluish – green in colour. Digestion converts any nitrogen in the food to ammonia, and other organic matter to CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. After digestion, the flask was then diluted with distilled water to about 200ml in the 250ml volumetric flask. 50ml of the digested sample was pipetted into the Kjeldahl distillation apparatus through the filling part of the apparatus into the inner chamber, 40% NaOH was added and boiled. The ammonia distilled over, then condenses and reacted with a 10ml boric acid indicator to form ammonium borate. The distillation was stopped when the volume of

ammonium borate solution reaches 50ml. Then the distillate was titrated against 0.1M HCl.

### 3 Result and Discussion

#### 3.1 Effect of Exposure Time

The first variation aims to see the effect of the exposure time in contacting the ozonated water on the quality of chicken meat. The longer the exposure time, the more ozone molecules are in contact with the sample. Duration of the exposure times varied between 40, 80, and 120 minutes. The parameters reviewed were changes in the aerobic mesophilic bacteria counts, pH, moisture content, and protein content of chicken meat.

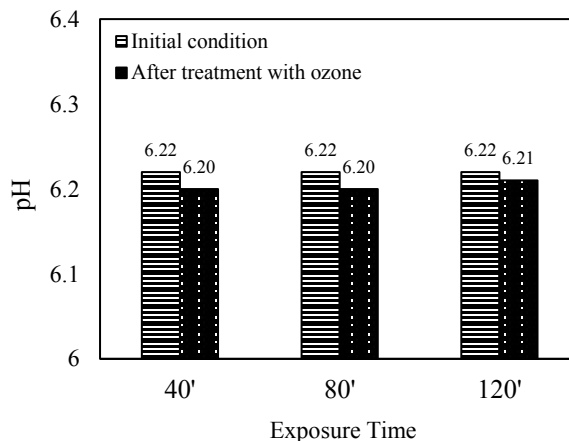


**Fig. 1.** Effect of ozone exposure time to aerobic mesophilic bacteria counts

The initial number of bacteria in the sample was log 6.89 cfu/g. The contact duration of 40, 80, and 120 min respectively reduced the bacterial population by log 0.46; 0.79; and 0.89 cfu/ g. From Figure 1, it can be seen that the ozonated water can reduce the total amount of aerobic mesophyll bacteria in chicken meat. Percentage decrease of each contact duration by 6.6%; 11.6%; 13% for each contact time of 40 ', 80' and 120 '. The trend of reduction of aerobic mesophyll bacteria shows that the longer exposure time of ozonated water with the sample, the higher the number counts of aerobic mesophyll bacteria has been disinfected.

The pH value obtained in the washing process of chicken meat sample using the water is shown in Figure 2. The initial pH value of the sample is 6.22. After contact with the aerated water, the three contact durations cause a decrease in pH value, but the pH value of the sample did not change significantly. The decrease in pH value is only about 0.01 - 0.02. This suggests that ozone has no effect on the pH value of chicken meat.

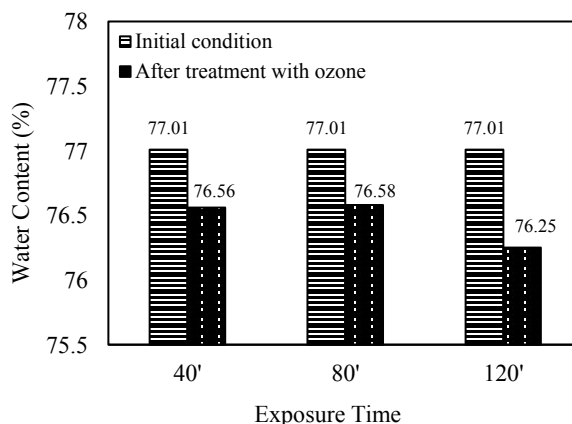
Similarly, research conducted by Trindade et al. (2012), suggested that there was no change in the pH of chicken carcass washed with water with a concentration of 1.5 mg/l for 45 minutes. Manousaridis et al. (2005) considered that the effect of ozone on the pH value of chicken meat was not useful as a quality index, as it showed no change after treatment.



**Fig. 2.** Effect of ozone exposure time to pH

Although there is no association between ozone and chicken pH, changes in pH values can be analyzed from other interactions. This change in pH value can occur due to the effect of the reaction between ozone and organic compounds on the water. The effect of bacterial activity in chicken meat can also be a factor influencing pH change. Some bacteria have cell metabolism that produces acidic substances, such as Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB), while some other bacterias such as *Pseudomonas* and *Escherichia coli* produces ammonia or indole that creates base atmosphere. Rouger (2017) states that if the population of LAB is more dominant, it will make the pH of the meat decrease.

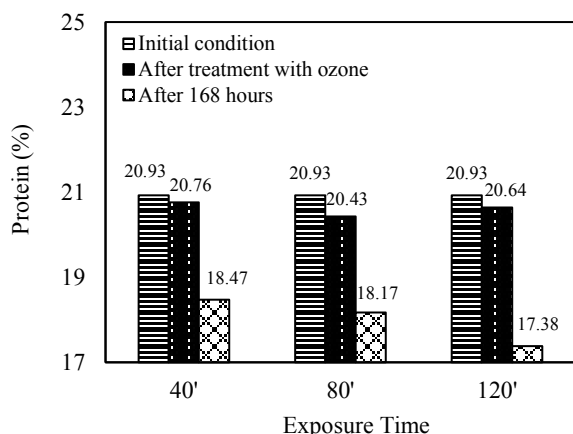
In this case, *Pseudomonas* spp can be eliminated first when it comes into contact with ozone, leaving BAL in larger quantities. According to Brodowska et. al. (2017), the rate of deactivation of bacteria using ozone will vary for each species of microorganism. The susceptibility of the microorganism to ozone that he has identified is in the following order: *Aspergillus niger* > *Pseudomonas fluorescens* > *Bacillus cereus* > *Escherichia coli* > *Bacillus subtilis* > *Bacillus pumilus*. Kim et al. (1999) identified that gram-positive bacteria, such as *Lactobacillus* and other LABs, are more resistant to ozone because they have more peptidoglycan on their cell walls. Gram-negative bacteria increase the permeability of ozone into the cytoplasm so that lysis can progress more quickly.



**Fig. 3.** Effect of ozone exposure time to water content

The initial moisture content in the sample was 77.01%. From Figure 3, it is shown that the moisture content of the sample decreases after contact with the water. The longer the exposure of the ozonated water with the sample, the water content will decrease even if it is not significant. The rate of decrease for contact time 40 minutes, 80 minutes, and 120 minutes in a row by 0.6%; 0.6%; and 1%. This very small drop indicates that ozone does not have an insignificant effect on water content of chicken meat. However, there is still water released from chicken meat. This can happen because of the interaction of ozone with water-binding agents, such as bacteria or proteins. Certain types of bacteria, such as aerobic bacteria, produce a product of water from the result of cell respiration.

Certain types of bacteria, such as aerobic bacteria, produce a product of water from the metabolism of the cell. The more aerobic bacteria content, the greater the rate of increase in water content at which the bacteria multiply. In the previous explanation on effect to mesophilic aerobic bacteria, it has been observed that as the duration of contact increases, the number of mesophilic aerobic bacteria is reduced more and more. In this condition it can be indicated that the decrease in water content is caused by a decrease in the number of aerobic bacteria, which is the result of the ozone disinfection process against bacteria.



**Fig. 4.** Effect of ozone exposure time to protein content

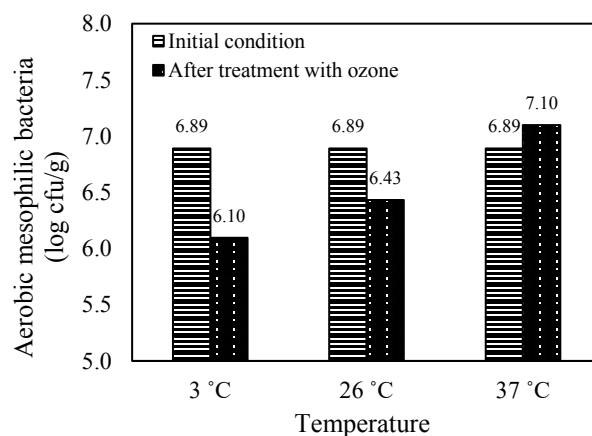
Based on the results of protein content test, it appeared that there is a decrease in protein content after the chicken meat samples are contacted with water. Large decreases in protein content for contact time 40 minutes, 80 minutes, and 120 minutes respectively of 0.17%; 0.5%; and 0.3%. The decrease in protein content after contact with ozone is very low, below 1%, so it can be said that ozone has no effect on protein molecules. At the hour 168, the protein content is reassessed to determine whether or not the protein changes during the storage period. On the seventh day, the percentage decrease in protein content that occurs is quite large. This indicates that there is activity that causes protein denaturation in denatured chicken meat. The cause of this protein denaturation is due to the activity of proteolytic bacteria.

The factor which plays a role in changes in protein content in chicken meat is a microorganism, such as

bacteria. According to Neiss (2015), proteins can be hydrolyzed into peptides and amino acids because they are assisted by bacteria that secrete proteases and peptidase enzymes. In chicken meat, the type of bacteria that process this protein are many from the Clostridium, Bacillus, Lactobacillus, Streptococcus, and Proteobacteria groups. The more the amount of bacteria, the greater the decrease in protein.

### 3.2 Effect of Temperature

This one studied the effect of room temperature on the optimization of ozonated water used to maintain the quality of chicken meat. The fixed variables in this study were chicken meat with 100 grams in weight, 100 ml of ozonated water with 0.38 mg/l ozone concentration for 120 min. The variations were conducted on the contact temperature, which was tested at three points is at refrigerator temperature (3 °C), room temperature (26 °C), and incubator temperature (37 °C).

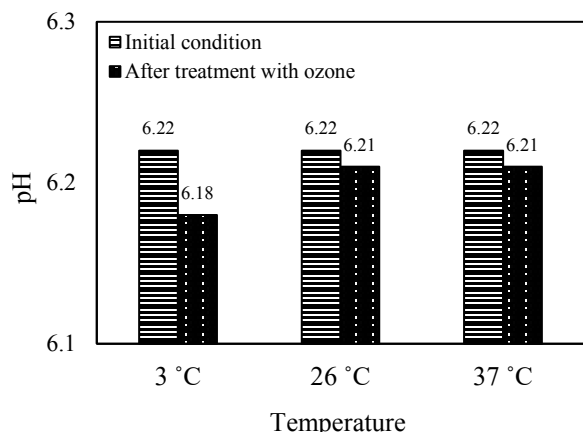


**Fig. 5.** Effect of temperature of ozonated water to aerobic mesophilic counts

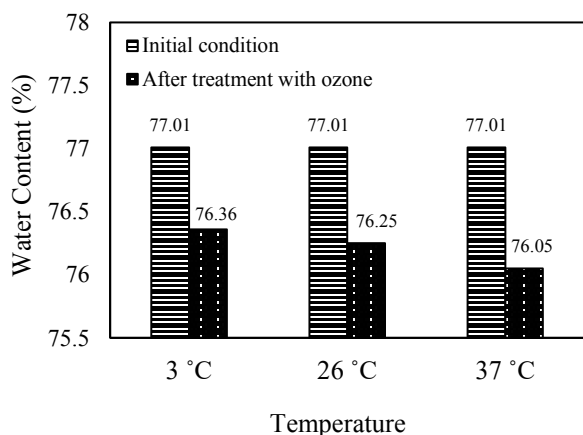
From Figure 5, the treatments performed resulted in a decrease of aerobic mesophilic counts by 11.5%; 6.7%; -3% for each contact temperature (3, 26, 37 °C). This shows that there is an influence between the temperature of the ozone contact on the quantity of aerobic mesophilic counts chicken meat. Wickramanayeke (1988), indicates that the inactivation rate constant of *Naegleria gruberi* spores is a function of ozone temperature and concentration. The trend of reduction of aerobic mesophyll bacteria shows that the lower the contact temperature will increase the percentage of disinfected aerobic mesophyll bacteria. At the incubator temperature, the number of aerobic mesophilic counts is increasing compared to the initial sample, because 37 °C is the optimum temperature of mesophilic bacteria to grow and reproduce themselves.

The pH obtained in the ozonation process of chicken meat sample using the water is shown in Figure 6. The initial pH value of the sample is 6.22. In each temperature variation 3, 26, and 37 °C the pH decreased to 6.16; 6.21; and 6; 21. This decrease in pH value is not caused by the interaction of ozone with chicken meat cells but can occur

due to the metabolism of the chicken's own cell or due to changes in bacterial activity in the sample.



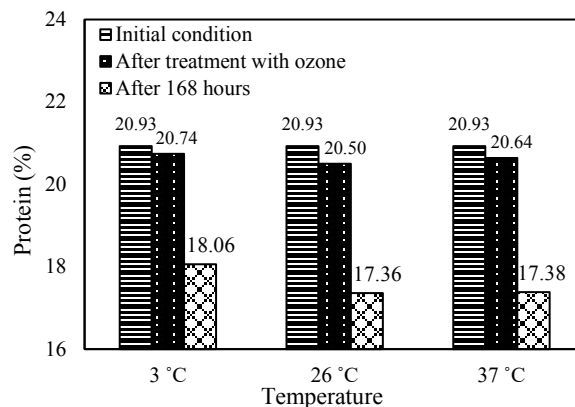
**Fig. 6.** Effect of temperature of ozonated water to pH



**Fig. 7.** Effect of temperature of ozonated water to water content

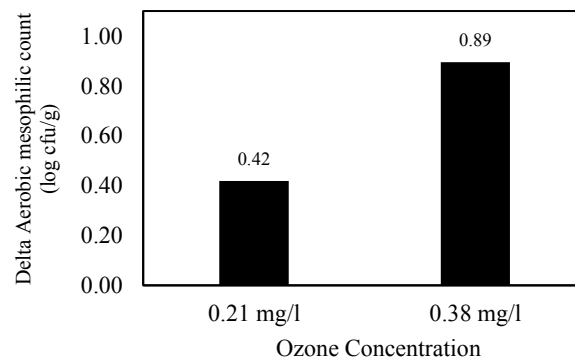
The rate of water content depletion for each temperature are 0.8%; 1.2%; and 1%, respectively. This suggests that, directly the presence of ozone has an influence on water activity. Among the three temperatures, the most significant decrease was the incubator temperature (37 °C). As the temperature of contact increases, the amount of water content also decreases. This is due to the influence of temperature in the water activity. Water evaporates at a temperature of 0 - 100 °C, and the amount of evaporation is directly proportional to the temperature. The relatively large drop in moisture content at the incubator temperature is caused by the evaporation of the water content of the sample.

The higher the contact temperature, the higher the protein depletion. Large decrease in protein content for temperature from 3, 26, 37 °C were 0.91%; 1.1%; and 2.05%. As described in the previous section, ozone has little effect on proteins. In this case, a decrease in protein increases with increasing contact temperature can be caused by the effect of temperature on protein denaturation, not because of the ozone effect on the protein itself.



**Fig. 8.** Effect of temperature of ozonated water to protein content

### 3.3 Effect of Ozone Concentration



**Fig. 9.** Effect of ozone concentration on aerobic mesophilic counts

From Figure 9, the total number of aerobic mesophyll bacteria of the sample has decreased after contact with the water. After contact with the aerated water for 120 minutes, the total of aerobic mesophilic bacteria in the sample contacted with ozone dosage of 0.21 mg/l was counted down by 0.42 log cfu/ g. For samples in contact with a dose of 0.38 mg/l, total aerobic mesophilic bacteria decrease greater, 0.89 log cfu/g.

This indicates that the greater the ozone concentration in water, the more ozone molecules in the water, the greater the capacity of the aerobic water in reducing the total number of aerobic mesophyll bacteria. The reduction in the total number of aerobic mesophyll bacteria is caused by bacteria wall insertion by ozone so that ozone is unable to defend itself and then die or lysis.

Figure 10 shows that there was a decrease in the pH value of chicken meat after the contact of water treated with a sample of chicken meat for 120 minutes. Ozonated water with greater ozone concentration (0.38 mg/l) only decreases the pH value of chicken meat by 0.01. While smaller ozone concentrations (0.21 mg/l) decreased the pH by 0.06. This very small pH decrease indicates that the treated water treated with ozone concentration of 0.21 to 0.38 mg / l did not affect the pH of chicken meat.

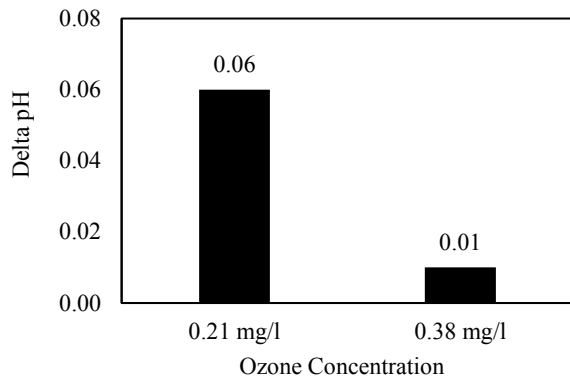


Fig. 10. Effect of ozone concentration on pH

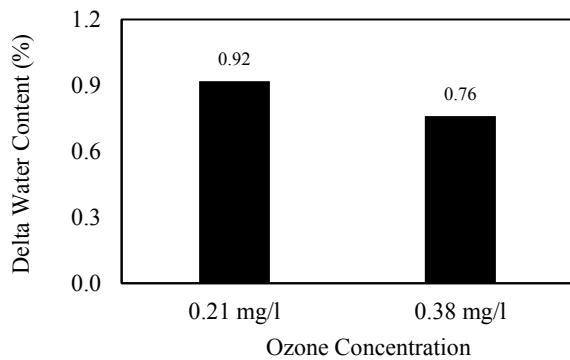


Fig. 11. Effect of ozone concentration on water content

From Figure 11, it can be seen that the moisture content of the sample decreases after contact with the water. After contact with the ozonated water for 120 minutes, the moisture content of the sample in contact with the dose of 0.21 mg/l decreased by 0.92%. For samples in contact with a dose of 0.38 mg/l, water content fell slightly, to 0.76%. This very small drop (below 5% of baseline) indicates that ozone has no effect on chicken meat water content.

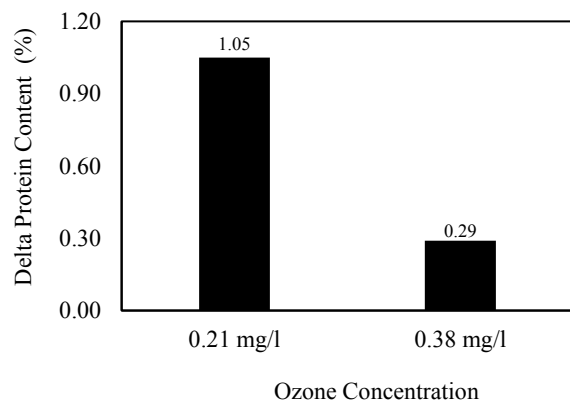


Fig. 12. Effect of ozone concentration on protein content

From Figure 12, it can be seen that the protein content of the sample decreased after contact with the water. Protein protein content was 20.93%. The protein content of the samples dropped by 1.05 and 0.29%, respectively, on treatments that were in contact with the doses of ozone 1 and 2. This indicates a decrease in the greater protein

content at smaller ozone doses. This can be caused by the influence of bacterial activity when the disinfection process occurs. Referring to Figure 4.18, the amount of aerobill mesophyll bacteria disinfected at ozone concentration 0.38 mg/l is greater than the concentration of 0.21 mg/l. This suggests that bacterial activity at ozone doses is 0.21 mg/l higher than other treatments.

## 4 Conclusion

Exposure time, temperature, and ozone concentration has an effect on the amount of mesophilic aerobic bacteria counts but it does not significantly affect the pH, water content, or protein content of chicken meat. The longer the contact duration, the lower the temperature, and bigger concentration leads to greater the number of disinfected bacteria. Ozonated water with 0.38 mg/l of ozone concentration is contacted with chicken fillet for 120 minutes at 3°C, resulting an aerobic mesophilic bacteria reduction by 1 unit log cfu/g.

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