

Protective efficacy of live IBD intermediate and intermediate plus vaccines against Egyptian vvIBDV challenge strain (Behera /20/06)

Sultan, H.A.; H.A. Hussein ; A.G. Abd El-Razak and S.S.El Ballal

Minufiya University- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Cairo University- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Abstract

In this study, assessment of protection of protection was carried out against challenge with the Egyptian vvIBDV strain Behera /20/06 at 1 and 2 weeks post vaccination of 49- day old commercial white -egg type chickens with intermediate (Moulthroup strain) and intermediate plus (G603 strain) vaccines against IBDV. Clinical signs, mortality ,gross lesions, Bursa/body weight ratio (E), bursal index (BI) and histology (bursa severity index) for survivors at 7 days post challenge (Pch). Follow up of maternal derived antibodies (MDA) ,seroconversion at 7 days Pch and IBDV antigen detection in dead birds was recorded as parameters for assessment of protection. Weekly follow up of MDA to IBDV in chickens used in the experiment showed their absence by AGP at a very low level by ELISA at 49 days of age .Satisfactory seroconversion for IBDV induced by intermediate and intermediate plus IBD vaccines were determined indicating their immunogenicity. The results of ocularonasal challenge in chickens vaccinated showed a partial protection at one week Pch (20% and 25% mortalities in challenged chickens vaccinated with intermediate and intermediate plus IBD vaccines, respectively) and complete protection against mortalities was observed after two weeks Pch in chickens vaccinated with either type of IBD vaccines .the control non vaccinated and challenged chickens showed mortalities between 40 to50 % at 56 and 63days of age. The bursal indices and histological lesions revealed that there is no complete protection against bursal atrophy or histopathological changes in bursa ,spleen and thymus provided by intermediate or intermediate plus IBD vaccines at 1 or 2 weeks post vaccination. Although, IBD vaccines induced complete protection against mortalities and histopathological changes was observed in addition, intermediate plus vaccine showed some bursal damages indicating some residual pathogenicity.

Introduction

Infectious bursal disease (IBD), is an acute highly contagious viral infection of young chickens described first by Cosgrove (1962) in the Delmarva Peninsula. The disease leading to direct and indirect significant economic losses in the world wide poultry industry (Chettle *et al.*, 1989; Van Den Berg *et al.*, 1991 and Rautenschlein *et al.*, 2005). The direct economic losses are due to morbidity and mortality rate while the indirect impact is due to immunosuppression of infected birds (Allan *et al.*, 1972 and Ivanyi and Morris, 1976).The etiological virus of the disease belongs to the reovirus family Birnaviridae (Brown, 1986; Van Den Berg, 2000 and Rautenschlein *et al.*, 2003). Two distinct serotypes I and II have been identified (Jackwood and Saif 1983, and McFerran *et al.*, 1980). Serotype-1 produces clinical disease and distinct lesions in bursa of Fabricius (BF), muscular hemorrhage and serotype-2, which infected both chickens and turkeys and was recorded as non-pathogenic for both species. Serotype-2

investigators, especially in the USA have reported antigenic variation among the isolates of serotype-1 IBDV. These antigenic variants were also reported through the use of a selected panel of neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (Mabs). Furthermore, in 1986 very virulent (vv) strains of IBD have emerged in Europe, which can cause up to 70% flock mortality in laying pullets and 100% in specific pathogen-free (SPF) chicken (Chettle *et al.*, 1989 and Van Den Berg *et al.*, 1991). IBD can be controlled both by live and inactivated vaccines. According to virulence, there were four kind of live serotype 1 vaccines: intermediate plus or hot, intermediate, mild intermediate, and attenuated mild strains. The protective efficacy of IBDV vaccines is traditionally evaluated in SPF chickens. But under field condition, residual maternal antibody (MA) levels may interfere with vaccines efficacy.

Under experimental condition, it was demonstrated that intermediate IBDV vaccines may break through residual MA and induce protective immunity, but mild vaccines not cause the disease. Over all, successful IBDV vaccination depends on the time of vaccination, the vaccine strain, the MDA status of the flock, as well as the epidemiological field isolate. (Tuskamoto *et al.*, 1995, and Rautenschlein *et al.*, 2005). In addition control of IBDV via adequate management and sanitation (Van Den Berg and Meulemans, 1991 and Van Den Berg, 2000), so control policy based on vaccination is considered the principle method used for control of IBD in chickens and was initially based on immunization of broilers and replacement pullets with various commercial serotype-1 live vaccines of the mild and intermediate types, and in breeder pullets either the inactivated oil-emulsion vaccines were used to boost immunity at the point of lay. Ideally, an IBD vaccine should elicit a prompt long lasting protective antibody response against virulent field strains, with lake of injury to the immune system.

Material and Methods

Chickens:

Sufficient, one-day-old commercial egg-type (L.S.L) male chicks were produced from a commercial hatchery (El-Wadi hatcheries), which possessed maternal antibodies against IBD, acquired from their parents that were vaccinated with live and inactivated oil emulsion IBDV vaccines. Chicks were monitored for IBDV-specific MDA by agar gel precipitation test (AGPT) and enzyme linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA) to determine maternal antibodies waning and the age at which the chicks become susceptible to expermental infection or vaccination.

Reference antigens and antisera:

Aknown positive and negative precipitating antigen in the form of bursal homogenates and known positive and negative precipitating reference antisera against IBDV obtained from Intervet, Inter. B. V. Boxmeer, Holland, were used for the AGPT.

IBD viruses:

a- tow types of commercial live IBDV vaccines one "intermediate" (Moulthroup strain) and one "intermediate plus" (G603 strain) vaccine obtained from the local agencies, were used in vaccination studies.

b- A local field isolate of vvIBDV designated as Behera 20/06 in the form of bursal extract was diluted 1: 10 in phosphate buffer saline, which killed 53.2% of 7-week-old susceptible commercial male chickens, was passed once in 7-week-old susceptible egg-type male chickens for propagation and was used in vaccination studies as challenge virus.

NewCastele disease vaccines:

B-1 Type, lasota strain live ND (NewCastle disease) vaccine obtained from the local agencies, was used in vaccination studies.

ELISA kits:

Commercial ELISA kits ProFlock supplied by Synbiotics Corporation, 11011 N Frontera, San Diego, CA 92127, were used for measuring IBDV antibodies. Application and interpretation of the test were carried out according to the instructions of the kits manufacturers.

Samples for histopathological examination:

Bursa of Fabricius, spleen, thymus, cecal tonsils and Hadrian glands of experimentally infected and control birds were fixed in neutral buffered 10% formalin solution. Tissue sections were stained with Harris hematoxyline and eosine according to Bancroft *et al.* (1990).

Agar gel precipitation test:

The test was used to demonstrate the presence of antibodies to IBDV in the cloacal examined chicken sera and for detection of IBDV antigen (s) in the cloacal bursa of affected chickens as described by Wood *et al.* (1979).

Experimental design of determination the degree of protection and serological response following vaccination with live intermediate (Molthroup strain) intermediate plus (G603 strain) IBD vaccines in 49- day-old commercial white egg - type chickens and challenge with vvIBDV (Behera /20/06).

Group treatment	Vaccination regime		IBD2 challenge (Age/ day)	Assessment of protection			
	age	type		Observation For days PCh7	Serology3	Antigen detection	Histopathology (SI)
Chall.vac.	49	Inter. Inter.plus	56	1-clinical signs	1-follow up of maternal derived antibodies (MDA)	Pool of bursal homogenate of dead birds	Lesion score survivors at 7 days PCh
Chall.non vac.	--	--	56	2-mortality %			
Nontreated.	--	--	--	3-Gross lesions			
Chall.vac.	49	Inter. Inter.plus	63	4- B:B ratio	2-Seroconversion at 7 days PCh		
Chall.non vac.	--	--	63	5-B:B index			
Nontreated.	--	--	--	6 For survivors at 7 days PCh			

1) Field dose/bird via oculonasal route

(2) The chickens were subjected to oculonasal challenge with 100ul /bird of identified local isolate Behera 20/06 in the form of bursal extract and observed

(3) Serological tests were used (AGPT& ELISA).

(4) SI=Severity index of bursal lymphoid tissue lesions (Sharma *et al.*, 1989).

(5) B: B ratio= Bursal body weight ratio. (Sharma *et al.*, 1989).

(6) B: B= Bursal body weight index. (Lucio and Hitchner, 1979).

(7) PCh = Post-challenge.

Results

Decline of MDA of IBDV

Table (1) shows MDA waning of commercial white egg-type male chickens used for studying serological response and degree of protection following vaccination of IBD vaccines. The maternal precipitins were not more detectable at 35 days of age, whereas negative ELISA titers were detected at 49-day-old.

Age/days sample collection	Serological tests			
	AGPT (Positives No./examined No.)		ELISA	
	No.	%	Titer \pm Sd	%CV
7	5/5	100	16422 \pm 497	2.579
14	4/5	80	15385 \pm 719	3.985
21	2/5	40	11628 \pm 3748	27.44
28	1/5	20	7825 \pm 1966	21.823
35	0/5	0	2669 \pm 570	18.089
42	0/5	0	1475 \pm 500	29.203
49	0/5	0	1264 \pm 715	48.526

Table (2) shows Result of determination of degree of protection and serological response following vaccination with live Intermediate (Molthroup) or intermediate plus (G603) IBD vaccines in 49- day old Commercial white egg – type chickens and challenge with vvIBDV (Behera /20/06).

Group treatment	Vaccination regime ¹		IBD2 challe nge (Age/ day)	Assessment of protection					MS
	Age	Type		Mort. ³	B:BR ⁴ Mean \pm sd	B:BI ⁵ Mean \pm sd	Bursal lymphocytic tissue lesion (SI) ⁶		
							Lymphocytic depletion	Lymphoc ytic necrosis	
Chall.vac.	49	Inter	56	20%	1.69	0.417	2.6	2.4	2.5
		Inter.plu		10%	1.66	0.409	3.0	2.8	2.9
Chall.non vac.	--	--	56	40%	1.23	0.303	4.0	4.0	4.0
Non treated.	--	--	--	0%	4.05	1.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chall.vac.	49	Inter.	63	0%	2.15	0.597	2.0	2.4	2.2
		Inter.plu		0%	1.79	0.490	2.2	2.4	2.3
Chall.non vac.	--	--	63	50%	1.34	0.372	4.0	4.0	4.0
Non treated.	--	--	--	0%	3.6	1	0.0	0.0	0.0

(1) Field dose/bird via oculonasal route

(2) The chickens were subjected to oculonasal challenge with 100ul /bird of identified local field isolate in the form of bursal extract and observed for 7 days.

(3) Mort. =mortality.

(4) B: B ratio= Bursal body weight ratio. (Sharma *et al.*, 1989).

(5) B: B= Bursal body weight index. (Lucio and Hitchner, 1979).

(6) SI=Severity index of bursal lymphoid tissue lesions (Sharma *et al.*, 1989).

(7) MSI=Mean severity index.

Table (3) Results of immune response following vaccination with live Intermediate (Molthrup) or intermediate plus (G603) IBD vaccines in 49- day old Commercial white egg – type chickens and challenge with vvIBDV (Behr /20/06).

Group treatment	Vaccination regime		IBD2 challenge (Age/ day)	Serological response		
	Age	Type		AGPT (Pos. no / exam. no.)	ELISA Range	Mean \pm sd
Chall.vac.	49	Inter Inter plus	56	6/8 7/9	5651-11953 10858-13984	9139 \pm 3245 12152 \pm 1214
Chall. non vac.	--	--	56	5/6	3881-11181	6731 \pm 2763
Non treated.	--	--	--	0/10	1568-2754	2438 \pm 632
Chall.vac.	49	Inter Inter plus	63	9/10 8/10	6896-14968 9477-14971	11945 \pm 3643 12574 \pm 2269
Chall.non vac.	--	--	63	5/5	4325-12146	7475 \pm 2369
Non treated.	--	--	--	0/10	886-224	1264 \pm 715

IBDV = Infectious bursal disease virus.

AGPT= Agar gel precipitation test.

ELISA = Enzyme linked immunosorbant assay

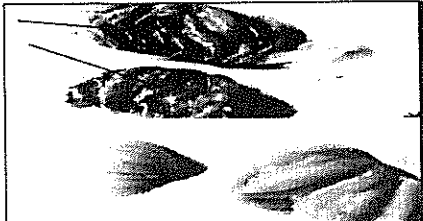


Fig (1) Hemorrhagic bursa of 49- day-old Commercial white egg – type chickens and challenge with vvIBDV (Behera /20/06)

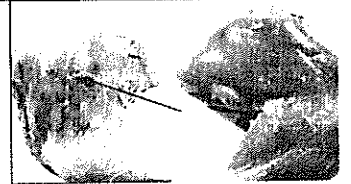





Fig (2) Hemorrhages in thigh muscle of 49- day-old Commercial white egg – type chickens and challenge with vvIBDV (Behera /20/06).

	
<p>Fig (3) Bursa of 49-day- old white egg-type chicken experimentally infected with vvIBDV isolate Bhera /20/06) infected -non vaccinated control), showing degeneration of lymphoid follicles with lymphocytic depletion and cysts formation .(H&E X40)</p>	<p>Fig(4) Spleen of 49-day- old white egg-type chicken experimentally infected with vvIBDV isolate Bhera /20/06 (infected-non vaccinated control), showing lymphoid necrosis in germinal follicles with lymphocytic depletion and cyst formation.(H&E X40)</p>
	<p>Fig (5) Thymus of 49-day- old white egg-type chicken experimentally infected with vvIBDV isolate Bhera /20/06 (infected -non vaccinated control), showing lymphoid necrosis and loss of lymphocyte .(H&E X10)</p>

Discussion

The important goal of the present study focused on the control of circulating IBDV local field isolates infection by using (intermediate and intermediate plus) vaccines for this purpose, a laboratory vaccination experiments were designed to determine the development of protection to infection with IBDV local field isolate following vaccination with intermediate or intermediate plus IBDV vaccines within 7 days and 14 days PV in susceptible commercial white egg-type male chickens.

Since susceptible commercial white egg-type male chickens were difficult to obtain, maternal derived antibodies was followed up serologically, the maternal precipitins were not more detectable at 35 days of age, where as negative ELISA titers were detected at 49 days. Table (1). The results of the oculonasal challenge with local field isolates Behera/20/06 showed that there is no complete protection against mortality occurred in vaccinated groups with intermediate vaccine the mortality rate was 20 % (table 2) while it provide complete protection against the mortality after 14 PV .Also there no complete protection against mortality occurred in vaccinated group with intermediate plus vaccine and challenged with local

field isolates Behera/20/06, the mortality rate was 10 % Table (2) findings were reported by (El-Khayat, 2003 ; Abd El-Razik, 2004, and El-Aziz, 2006) these results indicating that the using of the intermediate plus vaccine give rapid protection against mortality than using intermediate vaccine. So it is advisable to use intermediate plus vaccine in endemic area to obtain rapid protection against mortality. Since protection against mortality might not be considered as absolute criterion of efficiency of the tested vaccine other parameters reflecting protection against bursal atrophy were included in the experimental study. Bursal indices and the histopathological lesions revealed that there was complete protection against bursal atrophy or histological changes provided their by intermediate or intermediate plus IBD vaccines at 7 and 14 days PV. Table(2) Similar findings were reported by (Mousa *et al.*, 1998 ; Van Den Berg and Meulemans, 1991 Sultan 1995 ; 1998 ; El-khayat, 2003 ; and Abd El-Razik, 2004). The results of the bursal indices of challenged non vaccinated groups indicating that the local isolate cause severe bursal atrophy while in intermediate plus vaccinated and challenged groups revealed more bursal atrophy than intermediate vaccinated and challenged group. similar findings reported by (Sultan, 1995 ; Bekhite *et al.*, 1997 Abd El-Aziz, 2006)

The histopathological scoring for evaluation of the extent of bursal damage Table(2) revealed that the birds challenged by local isolate showed maximum damage to bursal lymphoid tissue Table (2) and Fig (3) similar findings were reported by (Helmboldt and Garner, 1964; Sultan, 1997, and Fatma, 1998) The study of histopathological lesions in vaccinated groups, the results revealed that there is no complete protection against histological changes provided their by intermediate plus IBD vaccines at 7 or 14 days PV. Table (2) Similar findings were reported by (Mousa *et al.*, 1988-a ; Van Den Berg and Meulemans, 1991 ; Bekhite *et al.*, 1997 ; Mohammed, 1998, and Abd El-Razik, 2004). The histopathological examination of spleen and thymus in chicken experimentally infected with local isolate revealed there was lymphocytic necrosis in germinal follicles and lymphocytic depletion (Fig 4 and 5) but less than the destructive lesion in the bursa similar finding reported by (Sharma *et al.*, 1989; Fatma, 1998; El-khayat, 2003 and El-Razik, 2004) In vaccinated groups with either intermediate or intermediate plus the histological examination of bursa , spleen and thymus revealed that the vaccines do not provide complete protection against bursal damage or spleen and thymus either after 7 and 14 day PV . From previous study It is recommended to use vaccines prepared from local field isolates outbreaks after conducting antigenic and genetic studies to establish database for our vaccination program. also we suggest to develop genetically engineered vaccines which can solve many field problems. Finally IBD vaccine development and evaluation under different vaccination regimes are the main key in controlling vIBD in Egypt

References

- Abd El-Aziz, A.A (2006): Studies on infectious bursal disease (gumbro) in chickens. M. V. Sci. Fac. Vet. Med. Menoufia Univ.

- Abd El-Razik, A. (2004): Studies on Very Virulent Infectious Bursal Disease Virus (vvIBDV) in chickens. M. V. Sci. Thesis. Fac. Vet. Med. Menoufia Univ.
- Bancroft, J.D.; A. Steven, and D.V., Turner (1996): Theory and practice of histopathological technique 4th Ed. Churchill, Living Stone Edingburgh, London, Melbourne and New York.
- Bekhit, A. B. A. ;I.A. Ghanem; H.H. Hassaine ; I. A. Ahmed, and A.G. Shakshouk (1997): Laboratory evaluation of commercial infectious bursal disease vaccine against virulent infectious bursal disease virus 11th international congress of the world veterinary poultry Association. 18-22 August Budapest, Hungary .
- Brown, F. (1986): The classification and nomenclature of viruses, Summary of results of meetings of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses In Sendai Inter virology, 25: 141-143.
- Cheville, N. F. (1967): Studies on the pathogenesis of Gumboro disease in the bursa of Fabricius, spleen, and thymus of the chicken. Am. J. Pathol. 51 :527-551.
- Chettle, N.; J.C. Stuart, and P.J. Wyeth (1989): Outbreak of virulent infectious bursal disease in East Anglia. I: Vet. Rec., 125: 271-272.
- Cosgrove, A. S. (1962): An apparently new disease of chickens-Avian nephrosis. Avian Dis., 6 :385-389.
- El-Khayat, F. A. (2003): Evaluation of Some Vaccination Programs against infectious bursal disease (Gumboro) in Egypt. Ph. D. Degree in Vet. Med. Sci. Thesis. Fac. Vet. Med. Tanta Univ.
- Helmboldt, C. F, and E. Garner (1964): Experimentally induced Gumboro disease Avian Dis., 8: 561-575.
- Ivanyi, J. and A. Morris (1976): Immunodeficiency in the chicken. IV. An immunological study of infectious bursal disease. Clin. Exp. Immunol., 23: 154-165.
- Jackwood D. J. and Y. M. Saif (1983): Prevalence of antibodies to infectious bursal disease virus serotype I and II in Ohio chicken flocks . Avian Dis., 27: 850-854.
- Lucio, B. and S.B. Hitchner (1979): Infectious bursal disease emulsified vaccine: Effect upon neutralizing-antibody levels in the dam and subsequent protection of the progeny. Avian Dis., 23 (2): 466-478.
- McFerran, J. B.; M.S. McNulty ; E.R. McKillop ; T.J. Conner ;R. M. McCracken ; D.S. Collins, and G.M.Allan (1980): Isolation and serological studies with infectious bursal disease viruses from fowl, turkey and duck: Demonstration of a second serotype. Avian Pathol. 9:395-404.
- Mohammed, A. T. (1983): A study on the pathogenesis of Gumboro disease in experimentally infected chicks. Ph.D. Thesis Fac. Vet. Med. Cairo Univ.
- Mousa, S.; A. H. Bayoumi ;A. Soliman ; N.Gad, and R. Desouky (1988-a): Development of an apathogenic infectious bursal disease vaccine of turkey origin. 3rd Sci. Congo Fac. Vet. Med. Assiut Univ.
- Rautenschlein, S.; H. Y.Yeh, and J.M. Sharma (2003): Comparative immunopathogenesis of mild, intermediate and virulent strains of classic infectious bursal disease virus. Avian Dis., 47(1): 66-78.
- Rautenschlein S.; Ch. Kraemer; J. Vanmareke, and E. Montiel (2005): Protective efficacy of intermediate and intermediate plus infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV) vaccines against very virulent IBDV in commercial Broilers Avian Dis., 2005;49(2) 231-237.
- Sharma, J. M.; J.E. Dohms; and A.L.Metz (1989): Comparative pathogenesis of serotype 1 isolates of infectious bursal disease virus and their effect on humoral and cellular immune competence of specific-pathogen-free chickens. Avian Dis., 33: 112-124.
- Sultan, H. A. (1995): Studies on infectious bursal disease in chickens. Ph. D.Thesis. Fac. Vet. Med. Alex. Univ.
- Tuskamoto, K., N. Tsukamura; S. C. Kakita; K. M. Mase; K. Imai, and H. Hihara (1995): Efficacy of three live vaccines against highly virulent infectious bursal disease virus in chickens with or without maternal antibodies. Avian Dis., (1995) 39:218-229.
- Van Den Berg, T. P., and G. Meulemans (1991): Acute infectious bursal disease in poultry: protection afforded by maternally derived antibodies and interference with live vaccination. Avian Pathol., 20: 409-421.
- Van Den Berg, T.P.; M.Gonze, and G. Meulemans (1991): Acute infectious bursal disease in poultry: Isolation and characterization of a highly virulent strain. Avian Pathol., 20 : 133-143.
- Van den Berg, P. (2000): Acute infectious bursal disease in poultry: a review. Avian Pathol. 29, 175-194.
- Wood, G. W.; J. C. Muskett; C. N. Hebert, and D. H. Thronton (1979): Standardization of the quantitative agar gel precipitation test for antibodies to infectious bursal disease . J. Bio1 Stand., 7 : 89-96.