

Efficacy of living attenuated Salmonella typhimurium vaccine in poultry

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The main goal of this study was to evaluate the protective efficacy of living attenuated *Salmonella Typhimurium* (*S. Typhimurium*) vaccine in poultry and to evaluate its use in control of salmonella infection in chickens. Oral vaccination of chickens within 36 hours after hatching and after 6 weeks from the first dose induced a strong humoral immune response as measured by ELISA. Challenge test was done with virulent strain of *S. Typhimurium*. Shedding of *S. Typhimurium* was detected during the first day, but after 14 days, salmonella could not be detected in the internal organs of vaccinated chickens compared with the non-vaccinated challenged chickens.

Salmonella is considered as one of the important causative agents which infect poultry farms specially that which apply the modern intensive system of rearing and management. Any contributions for elimination of salmonella in birds could have a major influence in reducing the populations of the organism under natural conditions (Bouzoubaa *et al.*, 1989; Holt *et al.*, 1996).

Many workers, all over the world, have been trying to control and eradicate salmonellosis in poultry by vaccination. Live attenuated salmonella vaccines may be hazardous because the residual virulence due to insufficient attenuation (Arnon *et al.*, 1983).

The currently available against salmonellosis vaccines can be divided into three major classes: bacterins, attenuated and subunit vaccines. Protection induced by bacterins in poultry is generally mild; killed vaccine elicits good antibody responses but induce poor cell mediated immunity. Live attenuated vaccines have multiple advantages because of their ease of administration, ability to carry heterologous antigens and capacity to induce cellular and humoral immune responses (Ciacci-Woolwine *et al.*, 1998).

Live attenuated vaccines activate the cell mediated immunity due to the specific cytokines response of dendritic cells during antigen presentation (Norimatsu *et al.*, 2004). However,

the selection of construction of live vaccines requires the consideration of several issues. The vaccine must be sufficiently attenuated so as to be suitable for immune compromised individuals, while still remaining immunogenic. Also, the vaccine should be not spread and survive in the environment. So, the aim of the present work was to study the efficacy of living attenuated *Salmonella typhimurium* vaccine in chickens.

Material and methods

Vaccine. A live freeze dried vaccine (Avipro *Salmonella* CT, Lohman Animal Health Co.) containing an attenuated strain of *S. typhimurium* was used. One dose contains at least 1×10^8 CFU live *Salmonella typhimurium* bacteria.

Bacterial strain. Local isolate of pathogenic strain of *Salmonella Typhimurium* was kindly obtained from Veterinary Serum and Vaccine Research Institute, Abbasia, Cairo. This strain was confirmed morphologically, biochemically and serologically.

Experimental animals.

Experimental chicks. A total of 200, one day old specific pathogen free (SPF) chicks were obtained from Koum Osheim Farm, Fayoum Governorate, Egypt. They were housed in isolators and kept under strict hygienic measures.

Mice. A total of 250 Swiss white mice, weighing 10-20 g were used for passage and determination of LD₅₀ of *Salmonella* strain.

Experimental design. The chicks were divided into two main groups, the first group (120 chicks) was given 1st vaccine dose orally at 36 hours after hatching with the 1st moment water intake, while the 2nd dose of vaccine was given at

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Table (1): Fecal shedding and reisolation of *S. Typhimurium* from different organs of vaccinated and non-vaccinated chicken.

Groups	No. of birds	Positive isolation from cloaca (Days Post Vaccination)				Positive isolation from organs/day		Total No. of +ve isolation from organs	% of reisolation from organs
		3	7	14	21	7 days	14 days		
Vaccinated	120	20/20	20/20	15/20	4/20	5/20	10/20	15/40	37.5 %
Control	80	0/10	0/10	0/10	0/10	0/20	0/20	0/40	0 %

Table (2): ELISA mean absorbance values in sera of chickens vaccinated with live attenuated vaccine

Groups	Pre-vacc.	Weeks Post Vaccination											
		First Dose					Second Dose			Challenge			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	1	2	3
Vaccinated	0.248	0.755	1.334	1.416	2.096	2.196	2.305	2.358	2.539	2.667	2.217	2.050	1.915
Control	0.248	0.270	0.248	0.312	0.277	0.274	0.299	0.248	0.277	0.312	1.243	1.334	1.018

Pre-vacc.: Pre-vaccination

Table (3): Blastogenic response of peripheral blood lymphocytes of chicken vaccinated with live attenuated vaccine using MTT assay

Groups	Pre-vacc.	Weeks Post Vaccination											
		First Dose					Second Dose			Challenge			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	1	2	3
Vaccinated	0.064	1.09 ±	1.43 ±	1.52 ±	1.39 ±	1.23 ±	1.09 ±	1.36 ±	1.73 ±	1.64 ±	1.58 ±	1.51 ±	1.43 ±
		0.04	0.006	0.018	0.02	0.009	0.15	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.005	0.006
Control	0.066	1.09 ±	1.19 ±	1.07 ±	1.09 ±	1.07 ±	1.07 ±	1.09 ±	1.23 ±	1.23 ±	1.22 ±	1.19 ±	1.09 ±
		0.04	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.009	0.009	0.003	0.04	0.04

Pre-vacc.: Pre-vaccination

6 weeks of age. The second group (80 chicks) was kept as non vaccinated controls.

Blood samples. Blood samples were collected weekly after 1st dose, till the end of the experiment. The immune response was measured by determination of cell mediated immunity and ELISA.

Faecal swabs. Cloacal swabs were taken from vaccinated birds to detect shedding of salmonella.

Internal organ samples. Random organ samples (Heart, liver, spleen and caecum) from each group were collected by scarifying birds weekly to detect presence of salmonella in internal organs.

Challenge. All vaccinated and non-vaccinated groups were intramuscularly challenged by administration of the virulent *S. typhimurium* (Dose 7×10^8 CFU/0.1ml) according to (Adriaensen *et al.*, 2007).

Cloacal swabs were taken at regular intervals till the end of experiment to observe shedding of *S. typhimurium* after 5 days of challenge. The birds of vaccinated and non-vaccinated groups were scarified and samples from liver, spleen and caecum were examined bacteriologically.

Separation of chicken peripheral blood lymphocyte. According to (Lucy, 1978).

Determination of viable lymphocytes. According to (Lucy, 1978).

Evaluation of humoral immune response. ELISA was carried out according to (Vollar *et al.*, 1976). It was performed by using a commercial ELISA kit (Biochek Co., Holland). The serum dilution was 1:100. Optical density of samples was read at 405 nm.

Results and Discussion

Studying of *S. typhimurium* shedding from the vaccinated chicken group post challenge with virulent strain revealed that the organism could only be isolated in the cloaca during the first 14 days after vaccination. The organism could only be isolated from cloacal swabs of the groups which received the vaccine.

Shedding of *S. typhimurium* was detected during the first 2 weeks but after 14 days no salmonella could be isolated from the organs of the chickens killed at the end of the trial, this also was obtained by (Desmidt *et al.*, 1998).

Active immunization assay was detected using ELISA which expressed as the mean absorbance values. At the beginning of the

experiment (one day old), anti-*S. typhimurium* antibodies were not produced by any of the birds. Two weeks after first vaccination, birds immunized with attenuated vaccine produced high amount (2.305) of antibodies and after second vaccination the amount of antibodies further increased (2.667). This was in parallel with the results of (Barrow, (1992; Barrow *et al.*, 1992).

In evaluation of the cell mediated immune response for chickens vaccinated with live attenuated vaccine the results revealed that the maximum mean absorbance value (1.43) and (1.52) were noted at second and third week post vaccination and (1.73) and (1.64) at second and third week post boosting. The control non-vaccinated group showed steady level during all intervals except for slight increase to 1.23 reached post challenge. From the previous results, it could be concluded that living attenuated *S. typhimurium* vaccine can be useful in the control of *S. typhimurium* infection in chickens.

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تقييم كفاءة لقاح السالمونيلا تيفيموريوم الحي المستضعف في الدواجن

الهدف الرئيسي لهذه الدراسة هو قياس فاعلية لقاح سالمونيلا الحي المستضعف في الدجاج وإمكانية استخدامه للحد من عدوى السالمونيلا في الدواجن حيث وجد أنه بعد استخدام اللقاح ومن الجرعة الأولى أعطى استجابة مناعية عالية والتي قيمت باستخدام تجربة الإليزا وإجراء اختبار التحدى باستخدام العترة الضارية لميكروب السالمونيلا وجد نسبة صد عالية. ووجد أنه بعد 14 يوم من استخدام اللقاح لم يتواجد ميكروب السالمونيلا في الأعضاء الداخلية للدجاج المستخدم في معايرة اللقاح والتي أيضاً واجهت العترة الضارية لميكروب السالمونيلا مقارنة بالدواجن التي لم يستخدم فيها اللقاح وتم اختبارها باستخدام العترة الضارية للسالمونيلا فقط.