

## Immunological studies on a modified adjuvanted fowl cholera vaccine

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### Abstract

Montanide ISA 70 oil was used in this study as an adjuvant in a comparison with the whiterex 309 white oil with Span 80 for preparation of an inactivated cholera vaccine. Sixty chickens were divided into four groups where group (1) was vaccinated with fowl cholera vaccine containing white oil with span 80, group (2) was vaccinated with fowl cholera vaccine containing montanide ISA 70 at ratio 50/50 oil, group (3) was vaccinated with fowl cholera vaccine containing Montanide ISA 70 at ratio 70/30 while, group (4) was kept as non-vaccinated control. Inflammatory reactions induced by fowl cholera vaccine containing Montanide ISA 70 were mild and transient as compared with those induced by vaccine containing white oil. Indirect haemagglutination test revealed that all types of the present vaccines induced high and protective antibody titres. Fowl cholera vaccine containing Montanide ISA 70 at ratio 50/50 induced earlier and prolonged response compared to the other two vaccines. These results were confirmed by the challenge against virulent fowl cholera strains where the highest protection level (100%) were induced by the last mentioned vaccine.

### Introduction

Fowl cholera is considered one of the most important bacterial diseases to affect poultry industry in Egypt (Gergis, 1987). It is a contagious septicemic disease associated with high morbidity and high mortality (Saif, 2008). Outbreaks of this disease have great economic importance for poultry industry due to its rapidity of spread and the extra-ordinary virulence shown by many strains (Rhoads and Rimiler, 1990 and OIE Manual, 1990). Vaccination is the most important and economic mean for controlling the disease and has contributed to the eradication of other infectious diseases (Hussain, 1994). The need for continuous improvement of the traditional fowl cholera vaccines should be seriously considered.

Oil adjuvant vaccines formulated as water in oil emulsion (w/o) with liquid adjuvants have been used for enhancement of immune activity by the slow release of solutes from the aqueous phase (Bennejean et al., 1978, Box and Ellis, Stone, 1991 and Peleg et al., 1993). The major drawback of using w/o emulsions as vaccine is their undesirable local side effects such as granulomas and abscesses which were sometimes occur at the site of injection (Reid and Blackall, 1991). Mineral oil emulsions have been used with antigens to potentiate and prolong the antibody response (Cox and Coulter, 1997). Several authors as Barne (1996, 1998); Abd El-Hady et al. (2002) and Kamal et al. (2004) used several oil adjuvants of Montanide (Seppic, France) as Montanide ISA 25, 206, 70 and achieved better improvement of the immune response post vaccination. The new oil formulations are of low viscosity, lower reactivity and high potency. The present work was designed to use the new formulation of Montanide ISA 70 at two different ratios in comparison with the white oil (paraffin) in a trial to improve

the efficacy of fowl cholera vaccine by potentiating the protective antibody response in chicken for prevention of fowl cholera disease.

## Material and Methods

### 1. Chicken:

Sixty chickens, six weeks old, were used in this study. They were obtained from commercial poultry farm. They were apparently healthy and had neither history of fowl cholera disease nor previous immunization with fowl cholera vaccine.

### 2. Strains:

*Pasteurella multocida* serovars (A and D) were used for preparation of the experimental vaccine and they obtained from Aerobic Bacterial Vaccines Department, Veterinary Serum and Vaccine Research Institute, Abbasia, Cairo. These strains were most commonly encountered among poultry infected with fowl cholera in Egypt. Capsular antigen was prepared for measuring the levels of antibodies in sera of chickens according to Carter and Rappy (1962).

### 3. Adjuvants:

Two adjuvants were used in preparation of the vaccines used in the present study.

#### a. Montanide ISA 70:

It is a mineral oil based adjuvant from complex water in oil emulsion and mixed with the vaccine according to the manufacturer's instructions. It was obtained from SEPPIC, Paris, France, Batch No. T81461. It was used by two ratios 70/30 and 50/50.

#### b. Whiterex 309, white oil quality, FDA/A/USP with span 80 as a classical emulsifier:

- Paraffin oil MICBIL, Alexandria.
- Span 80 supplied by Ubichem LTD.
- Tween 80 supplied by Sigma Co., USA.

### 4. Preparation of vaccines:

#### a. Preparation of inactivated *Pasteurella multocida* vaccine:

The avirulent local strains of *P. multocida* A and D were propagated in trypticase soya broth at 37°C aerobically for 24 hours to obtain a dense culture containing approximately  $3.25 \times 10^{10}$  colony forming units (CFU) of each strain/ml (Kucera et al., 1981). After inactivation by addition of 0.5 % formalin for 18-24 hours, each culture was tested for purity, safety and sterility as mentioned by Mukkur et al. (1982). Finally, cultures were equally mixed together then preserved with 0.01 % of thiomersal and stored at 4°C until used.

Three forms of the vaccine were formulated as follow:

#### a. Oil adjuvant vaccine:

It was prepared according to Stone et al. (1978). The bacteria suspension was mixed to the tween 80 making aqueous phase. Oil phase consisted of paraffin oil and Span. The aqueous phase was emulsified in oil phase by ratio of 1:1.

#### b. The water in oil vaccine (Montanide ISA 70, Sepic, France):

It was prepared by adding:

1. Equal parts of antigen and oil phase, by ratio of 50/50.
  2. One volume of antigen to 3 volume of oil approximately to a ratio of 70/30.
5. Characterization of the vaccine:

For evaluation of the emulsification process of vaccines drop to emulsion viscosity and emulsion stability were done according to Geneidy et al (1971), Becher (1965) and Cruickshank et al. (1975) before being used in vaccination program.

#### **6. Standardization of vaccine formulations:**

The aforementioned vaccine formulation were subjected to a number of quality control tests based on sterility, safety criteria following Code of American Federal Regulation (1985) before being used in the vaccination program.

#### **7. Experimental design:**

Chickens were divided into 4 groups each of fifteen.

\* Random blood samples were aseptically collected from each group of chickens just before vaccination.

**Group (1):** Vaccinated subcutaneously at the middle part of the neck with 0.5 ml of avian cholera vaccine with mineral oil and Span 80.

**Group (2):** Vaccinated subcutaneously at the middle part of the neck with 0.5 ml of avian cholera vaccine with oil Montanide ISA 70 in ratio 50/50.

**Group (3):** Vaccinated subcutaneously at the middle part of the neck with 0.5 ml of avian cholera vaccine with oil Montanide ISA 70 in ratio 70/30.

**Group (4):** Kept as non-vaccinated control group.

Booster vaccination was conducted 4 weeks after the primary vaccination.

#### **8. Serological testing:**

Blood samples were aseptically collected from chickens just before vaccination then after 7, 15, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 120 and 150 days post vaccination.

Sera were separated and stored at -20°C until tested for estimation of humoral immune response to fowl cholera vaccines by use of passive haemagglutination test.

#### **Passive haemagglutination test:**

Antibodies were measured by the passive haemagglutination test described by Carter and Rappy (1962) in microtitre plates by using formalinized RBCs and capsular antigen of *P. Multocida* A and D. Performance of the test was two fold dilution of the sera. The vaccine is concluded effective if it induced seroconversion in sera of vaccinated chickens.

#### **9. Challenge test:**

Ten chickens from each group were exposed to challenge against virulent strains of *P. multocida* serotypes A, D which were used in preparation of vaccine. Cell suspension was prepared in concentration  $10^9$  CFU/ml under serial dilution, 0.1 ml of virulent *P. multocida* cell suspensions containing  $LD_{50}$  were injected S/C in all chickens three weeks post the second vaccination. All chickens were observed for 10 days and mortalities were recorded.

### **Results and Discussion**

Fowl cholera is peracute, acute or chronic septicaemic disease for chickens and turkeys, it causes high mortality especially in the acute phase (Saif, 2008). Fowl cholera vaccination programs have been developed as prophylactic measures against the disease (Azzam et al., 1992). The present study was aimed to prepare a modified fowl cholera vaccine using Montanide ISA 70 as an adjuvant.

adjuvant which is a new generation of adjuvant produced by Seppic, France and able to enhance local and systemic immune response, in comparing with the other classical vaccine which contain whiterex 309 white oil with Span 80. The advantage of the newer adjuvant ISA 70 is that it can be used at different ratios: 70/30 and 50/50, it has its own emulsifier, and easily prepared. No local reactions are observed, no pyrogenic properties induced by such vaccines are also reported by Barnett et al. (2002) and Yamanaka et al. (1993).

In the present study, serological assay for *P. multocida* antibodies are represented by indirect haemagglutination test are shown in table (1) and Fig (1). The three formulations of the vaccine gave significant levels of antibodies in vaccinated birds in comparing to the non-vaccinated ones. During the first two weeks post primary vaccination, the antibody titres were elevated, there were slight differences between the three forms, the Montanide ISA 70 oil adjuvant when used by ratio of 50/50 gave early and higher humoral immune response more than the classic oil adjuvant and the other formulation of ISA 70 at ratio 70/30, where the antibody titre reached the peak at 4 weeks post vaccination and persisted at high level for up to 16 weeks.

These findings were in agreement with that of Abdel Hady et al. (2002) who used ISA 70 as an adjuvant for Newcastle vaccine in chicken, and Barnett et al (1996) who used Montanide oil and found that it is the most potent adjuvant for FMD antigen in addition to its superior stability performance. Table (2) describes the results of challenge test of vaccinated chickens 100% protection was recorded in chickens vaccinated with the avian cholera vaccine contained Montanide oil ISA 70 in ratio of 50/50 while chicken received the same vaccine with 70% ratio showed 80% protection and chicken which received the avian cholera vaccine contained Whiterex 309 white oil with Span 80 showed 90% protection.

Table (1): *P. multocida* antibodies in sera of chickens vaccinated with four cholera vaccine formulations as measured by indirect haemagglutination test

Type of vaccine	Prevacc.	Weeks post vaccination										
		1 w	2 w	4 w	2 <sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccination	6 w	8 w	10 w	12 w	14 w	16 w	20 w
1. Avian cholera vaccine using mineral oil	2	64	128	197			256	512	512	470	256	226
2. Avian cholera vaccine using ISA 70, 50/50	2	64	184	256	256		512	470	226	190	170	128
3. Avian cholera vaccine using ISA 70, 70/30	2	32	64	170	190		256	512	256	256	128	64
4. Non-vaccinated control	2	4	2	6	2		6	8	4	2	4	8

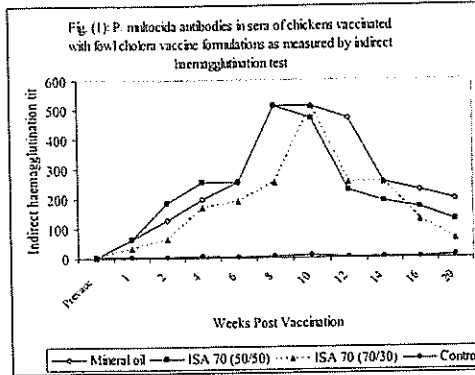


Table (2): Comparative efficiency of fowl cholera vaccines against challenge with *P. multocida* serotype A and D

Chicken group and type of vaccine	No. of challenged chicken	No. of dead chicken	No. of survival chicken	Protection rate %
1. Avian cholera vaccine using mineral oil	10	1	9	90 %
2. Avian cholera vaccine using ISA 70, 50/50	10	0	10	100 %
3. Avian cholera vaccine using ISA 70, 70/30	10	2	8	80 %
4. Non-vaccinated control	10	10	0	0

\* Challenge was conducted twenty one days after second vaccination.

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## الخص العربي

### ساعات مناعية على لقاح كوليرا الطيور المطور

يمان سامى أحمد د. منال سيد محمود أ.د. وفاء على غنيمي

: بحوث الأمصال واللقاحات البيطرية - العباسية - القاهرة

هذه الدراسة تم استخدام المونتانيدي (ISA 70) كمساعد مناعي بتركيزين (30/70)، (50/50) وكذلك أيضا ، البارافين وتم تقسيم ستون دجاجة الى ثلاث مجموعات محصنة كالتالى: مجموعة (1) محصنة بلقاح كوليرا ور باستخدام زيت البارافين، مجموعة (2) محصنة بلقاح كوليرا الطيور بالمونتانيدي (50/50)، مجموعة (3) سنة بلقاح كوليرا الطيور باستخدام المونتانيدي (30/70) ومجموعة (4) غير محصنة. اللقاح مضاف اليه نتايد ISA 70 كان اسهل عند الحقن وأحدث التهابات جلدية بسيطة وموقته بعد الحقن. أظهرت نتائج اختبار ن الدموى الغير مباشر فى المجموعة الأولى التى استخدم فيها زيت البارافين مستوى مناعى عالى ولكن ر عن المجموعة الثانية والثى استخدم فيها المونتانيدي بنسبة (50/50) حيث ارتفع المستوى المناعى مبكرا ا عن المجموعة الثالثة والثى استخدمت فيها نسبة (30/70) ولقد تأكدت هذه النتائج باختيار التحدى ضد كوليرا ور والذى أظهر أعلى نسبة حماية (100%) فى المجموعة رقم (2) المحصنة بلقاح كوليرا الطيور المحتوى المونتانيدي بنسبة (50/50).