



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**IMMUNE RESPONSES TO A LIVE VIRUS VACCINE CANDIDATE  
AND PROTECTION AGAINST PSEUDORABIES VIRUS INFECTION**

**ABDEL-WAHID SAEED ALI BABIKER**

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**1999**



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**By**

**ABDEL-WAHID SAEED ALI BABIKER**

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Universiti Putra Malaysia**

**December 1999**



**DEDICATED TO MY**

**PARENTS, *SAEED & SITTANA***

**BROTHERS, *ABDEL-GADIR & ALI***

**SISTERS, *UMMUHANI, KHADIJA, AISHA, EHSAN, RAHMA, IGBAL,  
FATIMA & SHAHINDA***

**AND TO**

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**FOR THEIR PATIENCE, CONSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT AND  
SUPPORT**



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xiii
LIST OF PLATES.....	xv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	xvi
ABSTRACT.....	xviii
ABSTRAK.....	xxi
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>I INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II LITERATURE REVIEW .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Definition.....	10
Classification.....	10
Genome Arrangement.....	11
Genes Expression and Regulation.....	13
Antigenic Properties and Relationships.....	14
Strain Markers.....	15
Physicochemical Properties.....	15
Glycoproteins.....	17
Glycoprotein E (gE).....	19
Glycoprotein B (gB).....	20
Glycoprotein C (gC).....	21
Glycoprotein D (gD).....	23
Glycoprotein I (gI).....	25
Glycoprotein H (gH).....	25
Glycoprotein G (gG).....	26
Glycoproteins J, K and L (gJ, gK and gL).....	27
Glycoproteins M and N (gM and gN).....	27
Role of PrV Glycoproteins in the Immune Response.....	28
Virulence Factors.....	31
Pathogenicity.....	32
Pathogenesis.....	33
Clinical Signs.....	35
Nervous Signs.....	36
Respiratory Signs.....	37
Reproductive Disorders.....	37
Latency and Reactivation.....	38
Epidemiology.....	40
Diagnosis.....	42
Virus Isolation.....	42
Serological Techniques.....	43
Molecular Techniques.....	45



Immunity.....	45
Non-specific Immunity.....	45
Humoral Immunity.....	46
Cell-mediated Immunity (CMI).....	48
Immunosuppression.....	49
Immunization.....	50
Live Vaccines.....	50
Inactivated Vaccines.....	52
Genetically Engineered Vaccines.....	53
Genome Analysis by Restriction Endonucleases.....	56
Laboratory Models for PrV Infection.....	58
<b>III ANALYSIS OF MALAYSIAN PSEUDORABIES VIRUSES BY RESTRICTION ENDONUCLEASES.....</b>	<b>60</b>
Introduction.....	60
Materials and Methods.....	62
Viruses.....	62
Stock Virus Preparation.....	63
DNA Extraction from Cell Associated Virus.....	63
Ethanol Precipitation of DNA.....	64
Determination of DNA Concentration and Purity.....	65
DNA Digestion with Restriction Endonuclease Enzymes...	65
Electrophoresis and Photography.....	66
Molecular Size Estimation of Viral DNA Fragments.....	67
Results.....	67
Discussion.....	78
<b>VI SEROLOGIC AND ANTIGENIC RELATIONSHIP OF MALAYSIAN PSEUDORABIES VIRUSES.....</b>	<b>81</b>
Introduction.....	81
Materials and Methods.....	85
Viruses.....	85
Virus Propagation and Purification.....	85
Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (PAGE).....	86
Western Blotting (Immunoblotting, Protein Hybridization).	89
Preparation of Hyperimmune Sera in Mice.....	92
Serum Neutralization Test (SNT).....	92
ELISA Procedure for Determination of Antibody Titres....	92
Serotyping of PrV Isolates.....	93
Results.....	93
Protein Profile of PrVs.....	93
Immunodetection of Blotted PrV Proteins.....	98
Serologic and Antigenic Relationship between PrVs by SNT.....	104
Serologic and Antigenic Relationship between PrVs by ELISA.....	106
Discussion.....	116





<b>V</b>	<b>PATHOGENICITY AND IMMUNOGENICITY OF MALAYSIAN PSEUDORABIES VIRUS IN MICE</b> .....	123
	Introduction.....	123
	Materials and Methods.....	127
	Cell Culture.....	127
	Tissue Culture Media .....	127
	Viruses.....	127
	Experimental Animals.....	128
	Cell Culture and Subculture of Confluent Monolayers.....	128
	Preparation of Virus Working Stock.....	129
	Virus Purification.....	130
	Negative Contrast Electron Microscopy (NCEM).....	131
	Virus Titration by Plaque Assay.....	132
	Inoculation of Mice.....	133
	Pathogenicity Test.....	134
	Protection Test.....	134
	Virus Isolation from Mice Tissues.....	135
	Preparation of Hyperimmune Sera in Mice.....	135
	Optimization of ELISA Reagents.....	136
	ELISA Procedure for Detection of Serum Antibody.....	140
	Determination of ELISA Cut-off Point .....	142
	Experimental Design.....	142
	Statistical Analysis.....	148
	Results.....	148
	Pathogenicity of PrVs.....	148
	Immunogenicity of PrV-mA1p.....	154
	Antibody Responses to PrV-mA1p.....	160
	Persistence of Antibody Response in Mice .....	176
	Discussion.....	179
<b>VI</b>	<b>NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODY AND DELAYED HYPERSENSITIVITY RESPONSES, IMMUNOSUPPRESSION AND REACTIVATION OF THE NON-PATHOGENIC PSEUDORABIES VIRUS</b> .....	184
	Introduction.....	184
	Materials and Methods.....	189
	Viruses.....	189
	Experimental Animals.....	189
	Drugs.....	189
	Virus Preparation and Purification.....	190
	Serum Neutralization Test (SNT).....	190
	Delayed-type Hypersensitivity (DTH) Test.....	191
	Virus Isolation and Titration.....	192
	ELISA Procedure for Detection of Serum Antibody.....	192
	Experimental Design.....	193



Statistical Analysis.....	196
Results.....	196
Neutralizing Antibody Response.....	196
Delayed-type Hypersensitivity Responses.....	201
The Effect of Immunosuppressive Agents on Virus Replication.....	203
The Effect of Immunosuppressive Agents on Antibody Response.....	206
Reactivation of PrV-mA1p in Latently Infected Mice Tissues.....	208
Discussion.....	209
<b>VII PATHOGENICTY AND IMMUNE RESPONSES TO THE NON-PATHOGENIC PSEUDORABIES VIRUS IN SWINE.....</b>	<b>215</b>
Introduction.....	215
Materials and Methods.....	220
Viruses.....	220
Experimental Animals.....	220
Adjuvant.....	221
Immunological Reagents.....	221
Cell Culture and Subculture.....	221
Virus Preparation and Purification.....	221
Virus Detection in Swine Nasal Swabs and Infected Tissues.....	222
Plaque Assay for Virus Detection.....	222
Serum Neutralization Test (SNT).....	223
ELISA for Detection of Serum Antibody.....	223
Determination of Rectal Temperature and Body Weight.....	223
Experimental Design.....	223
Statistical Analysis.....	226
Results.....	226
The Effect of Algamulin Adjuvant on Immunogenicity of PrV-mA1p .....	226
Antibody Responses to the adjuvanated PrV-mA1p.....	227
Pathogenicity of PrV-CD in Piglets.....	233
Immunogenicity of PrV-CD in Piglets.....	233
Pathogenicity of PrV-mA1p in Piglets.....	238
Immunogenicity of PrV-mA1p in Piglets.....	238
The Effect of Route of Inoculation and Antigen Preparation on Immunogenicity of PrV-mA1p in Piglets.....	242
Discussion.....	243
<b>VIII GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>248</b>
General Discussion.....	248
Conclusions.....	261
Future Prospects and Suggestions.....	262



BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	264
APPENDICES.....	311
A Tissue Culture Media and Related Solutions.....	312
B DNA Analysis Buffers and Related Reagents.....	314
C SDS-PAGE Buffers and Solutions.....	317
D Western blotting Buffers and Solutions.....	322
E ELISA Buffers and Solutions .....	324
F Rectal Temperature, Body Weight and Virus Shedding of PrV Infected Piglets.....	326
BIODATA OF AUTHOR.....	333



## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>		<b>Page</b>
1	Glycoprotein-Homologies PrV/HSV.....	18
2	Functions of Some PrV Glycoproteins.....	19
3	Role of PrV Glycoproteins in the Immune Response.....	30
4	Molecular Size of PrVs–DNA Fragments Generated by Digestion with <i>Kpn</i> I Restriction Endonuclease Enzyme.....	69
5	Molecular Size of PrVs–DNA Fragments Generated by Digestion with <i>Bam</i> H I Restriction Endonuclease Enzyme.....	70
6	Biological Properties of the Best Characterized PrV Proteins.....	84
7	Number and Molecular Weight of Polypeptide Bands Generated by 10% PAGE of purified PrVs and Stained with Coomassie Blue	95
8	Number and Molecular Weight of Polypeptide Bands Generated by 10% PAGE of purified PrVs and Stained with Silver Nitrate...	97
9	The Differences among PrV Isolates in Blotted Polypeptide Bands Immunologically Detected by HIS of PrV-VBA1 .....	98
10	The Differences among PrV Isolates in Blotted Polypeptide Bands Immunologically Detected by HIS of PrV-VBA3.....	99
11	The Differences among PrV Isolates in Blotted Polypeptide Bands Immunologically Detected by HIS of PrV-mA1p.....	100
12	The Differences among PrV Isolates in Blotted Polypeptide Bands Immunologically Detected by HIS of PrV-CD.....	101
13	The Differences among PrV Isolates in Blotted Polypeptide Bands Immunologically Detected by Swine Serum of PrV-mA1p.	102
14	The Differences among PrV Isolates in Blotted Polypeptide Bands Immunologically Detected by Swine Serum of PrV-CD.....	103
15	Neutralizing Antibody Titres of PrVs HIS's Measured Against Homologous and Heterologous Antigens.....	104
16	The Bilateral Relationship between PrVs Estimated from their HIS's Neutralizing Antibody Titres.....	105



17	Antibody Titres of PrVs HIS's Measured Against Homologous and Heterologous Antigens in ELISA.....	106
18	The Bilateral Relationship between PrVs Estimated from their HIS's Antibody Titres Measured in ELISA.....	107
19	Pathogenicity of PrV- VBA1, VBA2 and VBA3 Isolates.....	150
20	Pathogenicity of PrV-mA1p at Different Doses of Inoculation.....	150
21	Virus Titres in Mouse Tissues Following Inoculation of Different Doses of PrV-CD.....	152
22	Infectivity of PrV-mA1p in Mouse Tissues Following Inoculation of High Doses.....	153
23	Virus Titres in Mouse Tissues Immunized with Different Doses of PrV-mA1p and Challenged with PrV-CD.....	156
24	Serum Neutralizing Antibody Titres Following Primary Immunization of Mice.....	197
25	Serum Neutralizing Antibody Titres Following Secondary Immunization of Mice .....	198
26	Serum Neutralizing Antibody Titres Following Intranasal Challenge of Mice.....	199
27	Serum Neutralizing Antibody Titres Following Intraperitoneal Challenge of Mice .....	200
28	DTH Responses Following Primary Immunization of Mice with PrV-mA1p.....	202
29	DTH Responses Following Secondary Immunization of Mice with PrV-mA1p.....	202
30	Comparison of DTH Responses Evoked by PrV-mA1p and PrV-CD in Mice.....	203
31	The Effect of Immunosuppressive Agents on PrV-mA1p Replication in Mice Tissues Following Primary Inoculation.....	204
32	The Effect of Immunosuppressive Agents on PrV-mA1p Replication in Mice Tissues Following Secondary Inoculation.....	205
33	Mortalities Following Challenge of Immunosuppressed Mice	



	with the Virulent Virus (PrV-CD).....	206
34	Reactivation of PrV-mA1p in Latently Infected Mice Tissues.....	208
35	Mortalities of Piglets Inoculated with Different Doses of PrV-CD.	234
36	Virus Detection in Tissues of Dead Piglets due to PrV-CD.....	235
37	Mortalities in Piglets Immunized with PrV-mA1p and Challenged with PrV-CD .....	239
38	Neutralizing Antibody Responses Following Immunization of Piglets with Different Routes and Antigen Preparations of PrV-mA1p.....	242
39	Rectal Temperature in Piglets Inoculated with Different Doses of PrV-CD.....	326
40	Body Weight of Piglets Inoculated with Different Doses of PrV-CD.....	327
41	Virus Detection in Nostrils of Piglets Inoculated with Different Doses of PrV-CD.....	328
42	Rectal Temperature in Piglets Immunized with PrV-mA1p and Challenged with PrV-CD.....	329
43	Body Weight of Piglets Immunized with PrV-mA1p and Challenged with PrV-CD.....	330
44	Virus Detection in Nostrils of Piglets immunized with PrV-mA1p and Challenged with PrV-CD.....	331
45	Virus Detection in Nostrils of Piglets Immunized with Different Routes and Antigen Preparations of PrV-mA1p and Challenged with PrV-CD.....	332



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Protein Microassay Standard Curve.....	138
2	Optimization of PrV Antigen for ELISA.....	139
3	Optimization of the Conjugate for ELISA.....	140
4	Protection Rate in Mice Following Primary Immunization and Intranasal Challenge.....	157
5	Protection Rate in Mice Following Secondary Immunization and Intranasal Challenge.....	158
6	Protection Rate in Mice Following Intraperitoneal Challenge.....	159
7	Antibody Response Following Primary Immunization of Mice with PrV- mAlp Intranasally.....	161
8	Antibody Response Following Primary Immunization of Mice with PrV-mAlp via Footpad.....	162
9	Antibody Response Following Primary Immunization of Mice with PrV-mAlp Intramuscularly.....	163
10	Antibody Response following Secondary Immunization of Mice with PrV-mAlp Intranasally.....	165
11	Antibody Response Following Secondary Immunization of Mice with PrV-mAlp via Footpad.....	166
12	Antibody Response Following Secondary Immunization of Mice with PrV-mAlp Intramuscularly.....	167
13	Antibody Response Following i.n. Immunization and Challenge of Mice.....	169
14	Antibody Response Following f.p. Immunization and i.n. Challenge of Mice.....	170
15	Antibody Response Following i.m. Immunization and i.n. Challenge of Mice.....	171
16	Antibody Response Following i.n. Immunization and i.p. Challenge of Mice.....	173



17	Antibody Response Following f.p. Immunization and i.p. Challenge of Mice.....	174
18	Antibody Response Following i.m. Immunization and i.p. Challenge of Mice.....	175
19	Persistence of Antibody Response Following Primary Immunization of Mice.....	177
20	Persistence of Antibody Response Following Secondary Immunization of Mice.....	178
21	The Effect of Immunosuppressive Agents on Antibody Response Following Secondary Immunization of Mice with PrV-mA1p.....	207
22	Protection Rate in Mice Immunized with Algamulin-adjuvanated PrV Antigens.....	229
23	Antibody Response Following Immunization of Mice with Non-adjuvanated PrV-mA1p Antigens.....	230
24	Antibody Response Following Primary Immunization of Mice with Algamulin-adjuvanated PrV-mA1p Antigens.....	231
25	Antibody Response Following Secondary Immunization of Mice with Algamulin-adjuvanated PrV-mA1p Antigens.....	232
26	Antibody Responses Following Inoculation of Piglets with Different Doses of PrV-CD.....	236
27	Neutralizing Antibody Responses Following Inoculation of Piglets with Different Doses of PrV-CD.....	237
28	Antibody Responses in Piglets Immunized with PrV-mA1p and Challenged with PrV-CD.....	240
29	Neutralizing Antibody Responses in Piglets Immunized with PrV-mA1p and Challenged with PrV-CD.....	241





## LIST OF PLATES

Plate		Page
1	DNA Fragments Patterns of PrV Isolates Generated by Digestion with <i>Kpn</i> I.....	72
2	DNA Fragments Patterns of PrV Isolates Generated by Digestion with <i>Bam</i> H I.....	73
3	DNA Fragments Patterns of PrV Isolates Generated by Digestion with <i>Sac</i> I.....	74
4	DNA Fragments Patterns of PrV Isolates Generated by Digestion with <i>Pvu</i> I.....	75
5	DNA Fragments Patterns of PrV Isolates Generated by Digestion with <i>Hind</i> III.....	76
6	DNA Fragments Patterns of PrV Isolates Generated by Double Digestion with <i>Bam</i> H I and <i>Hind</i> III.....	77
7	Protein Profile of PrV Isolates Analysed by 10% PAGE and Stained with Coomassie Blue.....	108
8	Protein Profile of PrV Isolates Analysed by 10% PAGE and Stained with Silver Nitrate.....	109
9	Western Blot of Protein Profiles of PrV Isolates Immunologically Detected by HIS of PrV-VBA1.....	110
10	Western Blot of Protein Profiles of PrV Isolates Immunologically Detected by HIS of PrV-VBA3.....	111
11	Western Blot of Protein Profiles of PrV Isolates Immunologically Detected by HIS of PrV-mA1P.....	112
12	Western Blot of Protein Profiles of PrV Isolates Immunologically Detected by HIS of PrV-CD.....	113
13	Western Blot of Protein Profiles of PrV Isolates Immunologically Detected by Swine Serum of PrV-mA1p.....	114
14	Western Blot of Protein Profiles of PrV Isolates Immunologically Detected by Swine Serum of PrV-CD.....	115



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Ab(s)	Antibody(ies)
ABTS	2,2-azino-bis (3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-Sulfonic acid)
AD/ADV	Aujeszky's Disease/Aujeszky's Disease Virus
ATV	Antibiotic Trypsin Versin
BHV	Bovine herpesvirus
bp	Base Pair
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
°C	Degree Celcius
CEF	Chicken Embryo Fibroblast
cm	Centimeter
cm <sup>2</sup>	Centimeter square
CMI	Cell-mediated immunity
CNS	Central nervous system
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
CPE	Cytopathic effect
CPS	Cyclophosphamide
D.W	Distilled water
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
Dr.	Doctor
DTH	Delayed-type Hypersensitivity
DXM	Dexamethasone
e.g.	For example
EBV	Epstein Barr Virus
EDTA	Ethylene Diamine Tetra-acetate
EHV	Equine Herpesvirus
ELISA	Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay
f.p.	Footpad
FC	Final concentration
FCS	Foetal Calf Serum
FLM	Flumethasone
g	Gram
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Hydrogen peroxide
h/hrs	Hour/Hours
HIS	Hyperimmune Serum
HSV	Herpes-simplex Virus
IE	Immediate early
i.e.	That is
i.m.	Intramuscular
i.n.	Intranasal
i.p.	Intraperitoneal
IBRV	Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis Virus
IgA	Immunoglobulin A
IgG	Immunoglobulin G
IgM	Immunoglobulin M
IR	Inverted repeat



Kbp	Kilobase pairs
Kda	Kilodalton
L15	Leibovitz's 15 media
LAT	Latency associated transcripts
M	Molar
Mab	Monoclonal antibody
MLV/ MLVs	Modified live vaccine/ Modified live vaccines
M.W	Molecular Weight
mg	Milligram
MHC	Major histocompatibility complex
min/ mins	Minute/ Minutes
ml	Millilitre
mM	Millimolar
N-Ab(s)	Neutralizing antibody(ies)
NCEM	Negative Contrast Electron Microscope
nm	Nanometer
O.D.	Optical Density
p.f.u.	Plaque Forming Unit
p.i.	Post-Inoculation
PAGE	Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis
PBS	Phosphate Buffer Saline
PBST	Phosphate Buffer Saline Tween 20
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
pH	Hydrogen-ion Concentration
PrV	Pseudorabies Virus
RE	Restriction Endonuclease
RNA	Ribonucleic Acid
Rpm	Revolution per minute
s.c.	Subcutaneous
SDS	Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate
Sec	Sec
SNT	Serum Neutralization Test
TE	Tris-EDTA
TK	Thymidine kinase
TNE	Tris-NaCl-EDTA
UL	Unique long region of PrV genome
UPM	Universiti Putra Malaysia
US	Unique short region of PrV genome
UV	Ultraviolet
V/V	Volume/Volume
Vero	Cell line derived from kidney tissue of green African monkey
VZV	Varicella Zoster Virus
w/v	Weight/Volume
w/w	Weight/Weight
µg	Microgram
µl	Microlitre
%	Percent

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia  
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AND PROTECTION AGAINST PSEUDORABIES VIRUS INFECTION**

By

**ABDEL-WAHID SAEED ALI BABIKER**

**December 1999**

**Chairman: Mohd. Azmi Mohd. Lila, Ph.D.**

**Faculty: Veterinary Medicine**

A comparative study of three Malaysian pseudorabies virus (PrV) isolates, one Malaysian PrV strain and one American reference PrV was carried out using restriction endonucleases. Variations were observed among these viruses when their DNAs were digested with only *Kpn* I and *Bam*H I enzymes. The Malaysian strain (PrV-mA1p) showed restriction pattern which was different from its parental virus. An obvious differences were observed between the reference virus and the Malaysian PrVs. When the SDS-PAGE technique was employed, no significant variations in protein profiles of the PrVs but variations in their immunogenic proteins were observed when they were reacted against homologous and heterologous antisera in Western blotting. The viruses were suggested to belong to the same serologic sub-type using SNT and ELISA tests.

Experiments in mice demonstrated that all the viruses were pathogenic to various extents while PrV-mA1p was found to be non-pathogenic even when mice were infected with  $10^8$  p.f.u. The study showed that 100% protection was obtained following immunization of mice with at least  $10^5$  p.f.u. However, the



protection level was highly dose and route of immunization dependent. Antibody (Ab) responses to PrV-mA1p were correlated with the protection levels obtained and demonstrated to persist in mouse serum for five consecutive months.

Low levels of neutralizing Ab (N-Ab) were detected in mice following immunization with PrV-mA1p depending on the dose and route of inoculation. They were correlated with the protection levels but not with the ELISA Ab titres. Higher DTH responses were observed in mice immunized with PrV-mA1p especially via intranasal route (i.n.). A second dose of immunization slightly increased the DTH response. A significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase of PrV-mA1p growth was observed in mice tissues treated with immunosuppressive agents. However, the highest virus titres were detected in cyclophosphamide (CPS)-treated mice followed by dexamethasone (DXM)- and flumethasone (FLM)-treated mice. A significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) decline in Ab titres following treatment of mice with all the drugs was noted. However, the highest decline was observed in CPS-treated mice. PrV-mA1p was reactivated in low titres from latently infected nervous tissues of mice using CPS and DXM but not from respiratory tissues.

Increases in the protection levels and Ab responses were observed in mice immunized with the algammaulin-adjuvanted PrV-mA1p. PrV-mA1p was also found to be non-pathogenic for swine following inoculation of piglets with up to  $10^8$  p.f.u. but displayed high levels of immunogenicity in piglets, hence the virus was highly suitable to be proposed as a live virus vaccine against PrV infection.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan Ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**GERAKBALAS IMUN TERHADAP CALON VAKSIN VIRUS HIDUP  
DAN PERLINDUNGAN TERHADAP JANGKITAN VIRUS  
PSEUDORABIES**

Oleh

**ABDEL-WAHID SAEED ALI BABIKER**

**Desember 1999**

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Suatu kajian bandingan terhadap pencilan virus pseudorabies Malaysia (PrV), satu strain PrV Malaysia dan satu PrV rujukan Amerika telah dijalankan mengguna endonuklease pengehadan. Perbezaan telah dicerap di kalangan virus ini apabila DNANYA dicernakan dengan enzim *Kpn* I dan *Bam*H 1 sahaja. Strain Malaysia (PrV-mA1p) menunjukkan pola pengehadan yang berbeza daripada virus induknya. Suatu perbezaan yang nyata dicerapkan di antara virus rujukan dan PrV Malaysia. Apabila teknik SDS-PAGE digunakan, tiada perbezaan tererti didapati dalam profil protein PrV tetapi perbezaan dalam protein imunogen telah dicerapkan apabila ianya ditindakkan dengan antiserum homologus dan heterologus dalam sap Western. Dengan mengguna ujian SNT dan ELISA, virus-virus ini disarankan adalah daripada sub-tip serologi yang sama.

Ujikaji pada mencit menunjukkan yang kesemua virus ini patogen pada tahap yang berbeza-beza, sambil PrV-mA1p pula didapati bukan patogen walaupun mencit ini telah dijangkitkan dengan  $10^8$  p.f.u. Kajian ini menunjukkan



yang perlindungan 100% diperoleh berikutan pengimunan mencit dengan sekurang-kurangnya  $10^5$  p.f.u. Bagaimanapun, aras perlindungan ini paling bersandarkan dos dan cara pengimunan. Gerak balas antibodi (Ab) terhadap PrV-mA1p berkorelasikan dengan aras perlindungan dan ini telah ditunjuk berterusan dalam serum mencit selama 5 bulan.

Aras Ab peneutralan (N-Ab) yang rendah telah dikesan dalam mencit berikutan pengimunan dengan PrV-mA1p, iaitu bergantung kepada dos dan cara penginokulatan. Ini berkorelasi dengan aras perlindungan tetapi bukan dengan titer Ab ELISA. Gerak balas DTH dicerap lebih tinggi dalam mencit terimun dengan PrV-mA1p, khususnya dengan cara intranasum (i.n.). Satu dos pengimunan kedua meningkatkan sedikit gerak balas DTH ini. Peningkatan tererti ( $p < 0.05$ ) pertumbuhan PrV-mA1p dicerapkan dalam tisu mencit yang diperlakukan dengan agen imunotindas. Bagaimanapun, titer virus paling tinggi dikesan dalam mencit terperlaku siklofosfamida (CPS) diikuti dengan mencit terperlaku deksametason (DXM) dan flumetason (FLM). Penurunan tererti ( $P < 0.01$ ) dalam titer Ab berikutan perlakuan mencit dengan kesemua drug ini telah dilihat. Bagaimanapun, penurunan paling besar dicerapkan dalam mencit terperlaku CPS. PrV-mA1p telah diaktif semula sekadar titer rendah daripada tisu saraf mencit terjangkit pendam mengguna CPS dan DXM, tetapi perkara ini tidak berlaku daripada tisu pernafasan.

Peningkatan dalam aras perlindungan dan gerak balas Ab dicerapkan dalam mencit yang terimun dengan PrV-mA1p teradjuvan algamulin. PrV-mA1p

juga didapati bukan patogen untuk babi berikutan penginokulatan anaknya dengan setinggi  $10^8$  p.f.u., tetapi telah menunjukkan keimmunogenan aras tinggi dalam anak babi tersebut, dan justeru itu virus ini adalah paling sesuai disarankan sebagai vaksin virus hidup terhadap jangkitan PrV.



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Pseudorabies virus (PrV) is a neurotropic herpesvirus that causes pseudorabies in domestic and wild animals (Gustafson, 1986; Pensaert and Kluge, 1989). The first description of PrV infectivity was made in 1902 by Aujeszky, a Hungarian scientist (Aujeszky, 1902) hence the name Aujeszky's disease. Pigs are relatively resistant to PrV and are the natural host. Other secondary hosts include cattle, sheep, dogs and cats (Pensaert and Kluge, 1989). Laboratory animals such as rabbits and mice can be infected (Nash *et al.*, 1980).

Aujeszky's disease is characterized by inflammation of the respiratory tract and a severe encephalomyelitis (Crandell, 1982; Eich, 1983). The common route of PrV entry is the nasopharyngeal region. The virus is able to replicate in cells of nasal and pharyngeal mucosa (Pol *et al.*, 1989). After the infection of the peripheral neural cells, the virus is transported to the central nervous system, where it causes a severe encephalitis which is fatal in young pigs (Baskerville *et al.*, 1973; Dow and McFerran, 1962). Clinical signs of pseudorabies depend on the virulence of the virus strain, the infective dose and the age of the animal affected. Infection in older pigs results in respiratory and reproductive disorders. Infection with mild strains of the virus results in an inapparent infection (Kluge *et al.*, 1992).

