



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***MOLECULAR DETECTION OF VIRUSES FROM HAND, FOOT, AND  
MOUTH DISEASE PATIENTS IN SERI KEMBANGAN, SELANGOR,  
MALAYSIA***

**BEH POAY LING**

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MOUTH DISEASE PATIENTS IN SERI KEMBANGAN, SELANGOR,  
MALAYSIA**

**By**

**BEH POAY LING**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**July 2014**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**MOLECULAR DETECTION OF VIRUSES FROM HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE PATIENTS IN SERI KEMBANGAN, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA**

By

**BEH POAY LING**

**July 2014**

**Chairman: Professor Zamberi Sekawi, MD, MPath**

**Faculty: Medicine and Health Sciences**

Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) is a common acute viral infection that affects infants and young children. The major causative agents of HFMD are enterovirus 71 (EV71) and coxsackievirus A16 (CVA16). Recently, HFMD cases that are caused by coxsackievirus A6 (CVA6) were reported in neighboring countries. The signs and symptoms of the infection are fever, mouth/throat ulcers, rashes and vesicles in palms and soles. Patients that were infected by EV71 might have serious and fatal complications, such as meningitis, encephalitis and acute flaccid paralysis. EV71 outbreaks that caused fatalities were reported in Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia since 1997. Fatal cases caused by EV71 were reported in Selangor during the outbreaks. Although fatalities reported in Selangor, the data of HFMD in this area was limited. The purposes of this study were; to detect and identify the HFMD viruses from the patients below 12 years old who presenting clinical case definitions of HFMD in Seri Kembangan, Selangor; and to describe the demographic data and clinical presentations of the patients with the viral agents.

A total of 28 specimens were collected from patients who presented with clinical case definitions of HFMD. The specimen collection period was from December 2012 until July 2013. The HFMD viruses were directly detected from specimens by using seminested reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (snRT-PCR). The positive snRT-PCR products were sequenced and phylogenetic trees were constructed. Virus isolation were performed on positive snRT-PCR specimens and reconfirmed by snRT-PCR. Among 28 specimens, 12 were positive in snRT-PCR. Based on sequencing results, seven of them were CVA6, two CVA16, and three EV71. According to phylogenetic analysis, EV71 strains were classified as sub-genotypes B5; CVA16 strains were identified sub-genotypes B2b and B2c; CVA6 strains were closely related to strains in Taiwan and Japan. In virus isolation, only one of 12 positive snRT-PCR specimens was successfully isolated from the cell culture, which was CVA16. The relationship between demographic data and clinical presentations with viral agents were studied. In conclusion, HFMD in Seri Kembangan, Selangor were caused by different genotypes of viruses, which were CVA6, CVA16 and EV71.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENGESANAN VIRUS DARIPADA PESAKIT PENYAKIT TANGAN, KAKI,  
DAN MULUT SECARA MOLEKUL DALAM SERI KEMBANGAN,  
SELANGOR, MALAYSIA**

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Penyakit tangan, kaki, dan mulut (HFMD), adalah satu jangkitan virus akut yang biasa dihadapi di kalangan bayi dan kanak-kanak. Agen penyebab utama HFMD ialah enterovirus 71 (EV71) dan coxsackievirus A16 (CVA16). Sejak kebelakangan ini, kes HFMD yang disebabkan oleh coxsackievirus A6 (CVA6) telah dilaporkan di negara jiran. Tanda-tanda dan gejala penyakit ini adalah demam, ulser mulut/tekak, ruam dan vesikel di tapak tangan dan kaki. Pesakit yang dijangkiti EV71 mungkin akan menghadapi komplikasi yang serius dan mengakibatkan maut, seperti meningitis, ensefalitis, dan kelumpuhan layuh akut. Wabak EV71 yang mengakibatkan maut telah dilaporkan di Sarawak dan Semenanjung Malaysia sejak tahun 1997. Kes maut yang disebabkan oleh EV71 juga dilaporkan di Selangor ketika wabak tersebut berlaku. Walaupun kes maut dilaporkan di Selangor, data mengenai HFMD di kawasan ini masih terhad. Tujuan kajian ini adalah; untuk mengesan dan mengenalpasti virus HFMD daripada pesakit bawah 12 tahun yang menunjukkan definisi kes klinikal HFMD di Seri Kembangan, Selangor; dan menghuraikan data demografi dan presembahan klinikal daripada pesakit dengan ejen virus..

Sebanyak 28 spesimen telah dikumpulkan daripada pesakit yang menunjukkan definisi kes klinikal HFMD. Tempoh pengumpulan spesimen bermula pada Desember 2012 sehingga Julai 2013. Virus HFMD dikesan daripada spesimen dengan menggunakan *seminested reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction* (snRT-PCR). Produk yang snRT-PCR positif telah diujuk dan pokok filogenetik dibina. Pengasingan virus telah dijalankan dengan menggunakan spesimen positif dalam snRT-PCR dan dikenalpastikan dengan menggunakan snRT-PCR. Antara 28 spesimen, terdapat 12 positif dalam snRT-PCR. Berdasarkan keputusan penjujukan, tujuh daripada mereka adalah CVA6, dua CVA16 dan tiga EV71. Merujuk kepada analisis pilogenetik, strain EV71 telah diklasifikasikan sebagai sub-genotip B5; strain CVA16 adalah dikenalpastikan sebagai sub-genotip B2b dan B2c; strain CVA6 berkait rapat dengan strain dari Taiwan dan Japan. Dalam pengasingan virus, hanya satu daripada 12 snRT-PCR positif spesimen telah berjaya diasingkan dari kultur sel, iaitu CVA16. Hubungan antara data demografi dan persembahan dengan ejen virus

telah dikaji. Dalam kesimpulannya, HFMD dalam Seri Kembangan, Selangor adalah disebabkan oleh genotip virus yang berbeza, seperti CVA6, CVA16 dan EV71.



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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 18 July 2014 to conduct the final examination of Beh Poay Ling on her thesis entitled “Molecular Detection of Viruses from Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease Patients in Seri Kembangan, Selangor, Malaysia” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BGMK	Buffalo green monkey kidney
bp	Base pair
CNS	Central nervous system
CPE	Cytopathic effects
CVA16	Coxsackievirus A16
CVA6	Coxsackievirus A6
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EV71	Enterovirus 71
EV76	Enterovirus 76
EV89	Enterovirus 89
EV92	Enterovirus 92
FBS	Fetal bovine serum
HeLa	Cervical adenocarcinoma
HEV	Human enterovirus
HEV-A	Human enterovirus A
HEV-B	Human enterovirus B
HEV-C	Human enterovirus C
HEV-D	Human enterovirus D
HFMD	Hand, foot, and mouth disease
IgM	Immunoglobulin M
IRES	Internal ribosome entry site
PBS	Phosphate buffer saline
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
RD	Human rhabdomyosarcoma



RNase	Ribonuclease
RT-PCR	Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction
siRNA	Small-interfering RNA
snRT-PCR	Seminested reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction
TAE	Tris-acetate-EDTA
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United State of America
UTRs	Untranslated regions
VP	Viral protein
VPg	Viral protein genome-linked
VTM	Viral transport medium

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) is a common viral infection that affects infants and children. Most of the HFMD is a self-limiting infection. The major causative agents of HFMD are coxsackievirus A16 (CVA16) and enterovirus 71 (EV71) from genus enterovirus in family *Picornaviridae* (Chen *et al.*, 2007). Coxsackievirus A4 to A10, A24, coxsackievirus B2 to B5 and echovirus can cause HFMD as well (Mandel *et al.*, 2010).

The HFMD viruses are transmitted through fecal-oral and respiratory transmission. The clinical case definitions of the disease are fever, throat or mouth ulcers, rashes and vesicles on palms and soles (Podin *et al.*, 2006). Majority of the infected patients recovered in seven to ten days without any medical treatment (Wong *et al.*, 2012). However, EV71 causes severe infections, such as encephalitis, myocarditis, herpangina, aseptic meningitis, pulmonary oedema or haemorrhage, and acute flaccid paralysis (Li *et al.*, 2011).

In 1969, the first HFMD caused by EV71 was reported in California (Schmidt *et al.*, 1974), and the epidemics continued to be seen in Asia and European countries. First HFMD outbreak caused by EV71 was reported in April 1997 in Sarawak, Malaysia (Chan *et al.*, 2000) and 31 fatalities were reported in the same year (AbuBakar *et al.*, 1999). In June 1997, HFMD was reported in Peninsular Malaysia and 11 deaths were encountered (Shekhar *et al.*, 2005). The outbreaks of HFMD were reported continuously in Sarawak in 2003, 2006, and 2008/2009 (Ooi *et al.*, 2009); in Peninsular Malaysia in 2000 and 2005 (Chua *et al.*, 2007).

HFMD epidemics have become significant public concern due to fatalities caused by EV71 among the infants and young children and reoccurrence of the outbreaks in Malaysia. Death cases were reported in Selangor in 1997 due to HFMD caused by EV71 (Shekhar *et al.*, 2005). The data and viral agents caused HFMD in Selangor were limited as well. Besides that, each HFMD outbreaks can be caused by different genotype of viruses such as EV71 and CVA16. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to detect, identify and classify the HFMD viruses from the patients who below 12 years old presenting clinical case definitions of HFMD in Seri Kembangan, Selangor.

**General objective:**

To detect and identify viruses from patients presenting with clinical case definitions of HFMD in Seri Kembangan, Selangor and to describe the demographic data and clinical presentations of the patients.

**Specific objectives:**

1. To detect and identify the HFMD viruses (EV71, CVA16 and CVA6) by using seminested reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (snRT-PCR).
2. To classify the HFMD viruses (EV71, CVA16 and CVA6) by using phylogenetic analysis.
3. To describe the demographic data and clinical presentations of the patients with positive snRT-PCR specimens.

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