

Original Research Article

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Studies on the Seroconversion of Attenuated Lentogenic ND Vaccine (Local Isolate) Through Drinking Water in Broiler Chicks

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ABSTRACT

Thirty thousand commercial broiler chicks in 30 different flocks were vaccinated with live attenuated lentogenic strain ND vaccine (local isolate) through drinking water at the age of day 5 and boosted on day 26 in field condition. Serum samples were collected randomly from 10% of the vaccinated chicks before primary vaccination, before boosting and before marketing. HI antibody titre was determined from each sample as per the method OIE, 2009. Twelve birds just before marketing (at the age of 40th day) of each 30 flocks were subdivided into two groups i.e. experimental group and vaccinated control group. Each experimental group (consists of 6 birds) was challenged with velogenic pathotype of NDV intra-nasally at the dose rate of 10^6 EID₅₀ per bird at the age of 42nd day and another group (consists of 6 birds) was kept as vaccinated control. Both the groups of birds were reared for next 3 weeks and recorded for any mortality/ abnormality. Serum samples were collected from all the birds at the age of 42nd day (before challenge of the experimental group), 49th, 56th and 63rd day of age for detection of HI antibody titre. The overall mean HI antibody titres were 1.53805 ± 0.03 , 2.04491 ± 0.04 and 2.27366 ± 0.05 just before primary vaccination, before boosting and before marketing respectively. The overall mean antibody titre decreased significantly (1% level) on the 7th day post- challenge and then increased gradually in the survived birds on the 14th day post-challenge with 4.44% mortality and reached to peak level (2.4075 ± 0.08) on the 21st day post-challenge in the experimental group. But in the vaccinated control groups the overall mean antibody titre gradually decreased with the advancement of age and dropped below protective level on the 63rd day of age with no mortality/abnormality.

Keywords

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Introduction

Newcastle disease is a serious and common fatal disease of chicken caused by a paramyxovirus type-1. Now-a-days, various pharmaceutical private agencies and State Biologicals are producing ND vaccines in

India which are used mainly in the commercial poultry sectors (intensive poultry farms) and have limited applications in rural area (extensive production system) due to some problems like i) Heat liability ii) Affordability, iii) Cold chain for effective administration and v) Ignorance of the

farmers. Moreover, in areas where ND is endemic, to prevent economic loss by sudden outbreak of ND, it is very important to develop a cheap but absolutely effective vaccine against the disease. The intranasal process is very cumbersome / laborious process when the flock size is very big as individual chick need to be immunized after proper controlling and is very problematic especially during boosting at the age of 25-26 days when the commercial broiler bird having the body weight in an around 1 kg per bird. During vaccination (handling) the birds become stressed and frequent mortality use to be reported by the poultry farmers. Therefore, an attempt was made by administering the efficacious vaccine through drinking water to evaluate its efficacy, safety and potency, so that the vaccine would be used cost effectively with ease administration and as well as accepted by the poultry farmers.

Materials and Methods

Preparation of the vaccine from working seed virus.

Determination of the HA titre of the vaccine.

Determination of EID₅₀ for calculating the dose of live attenuated lentogenic strain (local isolate) ND vaccine.

Lyophilization of the vaccine.

Performing sterility, specificity, safety and potency tests of the lentogenic strain (local isolate) ND lyophilized vaccine.

Determination of HA titre of the lyophilized vaccine.

Performing field trial in broiler chicks to determine the immune response of the live attenuated lentogenic strain (local isolate) ND vaccine through drinking water.

Performing challenge study of the vaccinated birds in laboratory condition.

Results and Discussion

For safety test of live attenuated vaccine, chicks of the vaccinated group were oro-nasally instilled with 10 times doses ($10 \times 10^{6.5}$ EID₅₀) of the standard dose of the vaccine. Both the control and vaccinated group of birds were healthy up to 26th day of age.

In potency test, 5 days old commercially broiler chicks were oro-nasally instilled with $10^{6.5}$ EID₅₀ live attenuated lentogenic strain vaccine (local isolate) and boosted on 26th day of life and again challenged with 10^6 EID₅₀ dose of velogenic strain of NDV (local isolate). All the birds in the control group died within 8th day post-challenge and the vaccinated groups acquired 90% protection.

For farm trials, thirty thousand commercial broiler chicks in 30 different flocks were vaccinated with live attenuated lentogenic strain (local isolate) ND vaccine through drinking water at the age of day 5 (primary vaccination) and day 26 (boosting).

HI antibody titre was determined from 10% of the birds study before primary vaccination, before boosting and before marketing.

After primary vaccination, the protective antibody titres increased significantly. Except 9 flocks, the antibody mean titres of the rest 21 flocks were very good just before marketing which might be due to the fact that 1 flock suffered from CCRD (Chronic Contagious Respiratory Disease) after boosting, 5 flocks were complicated with colibacillosis before marketing, 2 flocks suffered from IBD before boosting and last flock had the complication of coccidiosis before boosting and IBD after boosting.

Twelve birds just before marketing of each 30 flocks were taken and sub-divided into two groups, i.e. experimental and control groups. Experimental group birds were challenged with velogenic pathotype of NDV intranasally @ 10^6 EID₅₀ per bird at the age of 42nd day and another group birds were kept as vaccinated control. A total of 8 (4.44%) death was recorded out of 180 challenged birds before completion of 2 weeks post-challenge. After 14th day post-challenge, neither a bird became ill nor died in the experimental group. On the other hand, the control birds of all flocks were clinically healthy with no casualty up to the age of 63 days.

In patho-morphological study out of 8 dead birds samples inoculated into SPF eggs, embryo mortality was recorded in 4 samples (50%) and virus was isolated from 2 samples (25%).

The live attenuated lentogenic strain ND vaccine (local isolate) was absolutely safe and showed desirable potency in commercial broiler chicks.

The live attenuated lentogenic strain ND vaccine (local isolate) was highly potent and generated sufficient immune response when administered through drinking water in farm condition. But the immune response was not optimum when the flocks were concomitantly infected with other diseases.

The commercial birds which were vaccinated with lentogenic strain ND vaccine (local isolate) could able to withstand the challenge infection of velogenic pathotype of NDV (local isolate) with 4.44% mortality due to the other disease complications.

So, the live attenuated lentogenic strain (local isolate) ND vaccine may be considered as safe and efficacious against ND, administered orally through drinking water.

Suggestion

Newcastle disease is a great threat to the poultry farmers and a real challenge to the veterinarians to control it. The disease can be controlled by strict vaccination programme with effective vaccine.

Extensive trial with more number of birds should be undertaken on three variety of birds i.e., broiler, layer and backyard.

Live attenuated lentogenic strain (local isolate) ND vaccine is heat labile. As such highly technical experimental design is to be prepared in order to stabilize the vaccine in ambient temperature and to be used as oral thermostable vaccine in the form of feed pellet.

Attempt will be made for stability of the vaccine to reveal the shelf life of the vaccine.

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