

Field studies of Bovine Viral Diarrhea virus (BVDV) in El-Sharkia and El-kalubia Governorates

*Nahed, K.A., *Eman, M. B., * Wafaa, A.W. and ** Hanaa, A. Ahmed

*ELISA research unit and Viral Strain Bank, Animal Health Research Institute

** Biotechnology Department, Animal Health Research Institute

Abstract

In this study, a total of 154 samples (28 tissue samples , 63 buffy coats and 63 serum samples), were collected from calves (2-12 months old) suffering from respiratory manifestations, recumbency, anorexia and abdominal respiration , as well as from closely contact apparently healthy calves, from El-Sharkia and El-kalubia Governorates. The results of BVDV detection using direct immunofluorescent antibody technique (DFAT) in the tissue samples and buffy coat revealed diffuse or granular intracytoplasmic fluorescence in infected cells with a number of positive samples (6 and 12) from El-Sharkia & (10 and 8) from El-kalubia Governorates; respectively. Detection of BVD antigen using immunocapture ELISA kit (I-C ELISA) in buffy coat revealed that (30 & 19) samples were positive from both Governorates; respectively. Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) confirmation of BVDV in the tissue samples indicated the presence of BVDV type 1 in five samples including lungs (2), kidneys (2) and lymph node (1) with specific band at 360 bp. The results of BVDV antibodies detection in the serum samples using virus neutralization test (VNT), revealed a number of positive samples (26 & 15) while by using competitive ELISA was (33 & 21) in the two Governorates; respectively. The relationship between the VNT positive samples and the reactivity in (ELISA) in the serum samples was recorded.

Key words: BVDV , ELISA , lymph node, intracytoplasmic fluorescence .

Introduction

Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) is an important widespread disease of cattle but also reported in -pigs, other domesticated and exotic ungulates (Løken, 1995). BVDV is a member of Family Flaviviridae, genus Pestivirus. It is an enveloped virus with single-stranded RNA genome of approximately 12.5 kb. Two genetically distinct forms of BVDV type I and II have been identified based on genetic comparisons, BVDV type I has been subdivided into BVDV type Ia represented by reference strain NADL and BVDV type Ib represented by reference strain OSLOSS. BVDV is also separated into two biotypes, cytopathic (cp) and non-cytopathic (ncp) based on its effects in cell culture (OIE, 2008).

The main source of BVDV infection is the persistently infected (PI) animals that shed virus in the environment, but other infected species can also transmit it by direct contact. Transmission by indirect contact may happen

through the use of contaminated equipment or through insemination with BVDV infected semen (Fulton *et al.*; 2005) .

BVD is an endemic disease occurs during the first year of life in calves, but reinfection can occur at any age. It causes high economic loss by which during infection, 60-85% of the cattle herds' are positive to BVDV antibody and 1-2% are (PI) (OIE, 2008). BVD in cattle causes various clinical syndromes in cattle including diarrhea, mucosal disease (MD), reproduction disfunctions (abortion, teratogenesis, embryonic resorption, fetal mummification and still-birth) and hemorrhagic syndrome (Nadis, 2010).

The diagnostic assays are in general, aimed for detection of the infectious virus or viral components. These assays include virus isolation, fluorescent antibody technique (FAT), immunohistochemistry (IHC), antigen capture ELISA (ACE), and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (Edmondson *et al.*; 2007). Variety sets

of primers have been used for genotyping of BVDV mainly due to high mutation levels in some parts of its genome so the designed primers should be able to detect conserved regions of the virus genome (**Vilcek *et al.*; 2004**). Detection of virus specific antibodies by using different serological tests as virus neutralization test and enzyme linked immunosorbent assays is an important way for the virus detection (**OIE, 2008**).

In Egypt BVDV-MD complex was considered as endemic disease before 1960 (**Baz, 1992**). **Hafez, (1972)** isolated BVDV for first time from calf suffering from pneumoenteritis syndrome and the virus designated as IMAN-7912. The virus was also isolated from cattle have the same syndrome by (**Baz, 1975**). BVD disease becomes widely distributed in Africa, and the Middle East including Egypt (**Kahrs, 2001 and Hassanein, 2003**).

PCR was employed for the detection and diagnosis of BVDV by (**Hussein 2001; Mohamed, 2002 and Hassanein; 2003**).

Aim of this work

- Detection of BVDV in field samples using immunofluorescent antibody (FAT) and antigen detection ELISA techniques.
- Confirmation of the BVDV isolate by RT-PCR
- Detection of BVDV antibodies by virus neutralization test (VNT) and ELISA.

Material and Methods

Samples: A total of 154 samples (were collected from calves of ages ranged from (2 -12 months old) , suffering from respiratory manifestations, recumbency and anorexia, abdominal respiration, as well as from closely contact apparently healthy calves, from El-Sharkia and El-kalubia governorates. These samples included:

A-Tissue samples:

A total of 28 tissue samples ,Lung (5), spleen (5), kidney (5), lymph nodes (8) and liver (5) (**Table 1**), were collected and prepared for FAT & ELISA according to (**OIE, 2008**).

B- Blood samples:

63 Blood samples were collected and divided

into two parts, one with anticoagulant (Buffy coat separation) for BVDV detection and the second without anticoagulant (serum separation for BVDV antibodies detection) from the diseased and apparently healthy calves (**Table 1**). The samples were prepared according to (**Staven and Julia, 1998**).

Cell culture:

Median Darby Bovine kidney cells (MDBK) free from non-cytopathic strains of BVDV obtained from virology department Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI), grown in Eagles MEM supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum and used for applying virus neutralization test (VNT) on the collected sera samples (**Clark *et al.*; 1984**).

Fluorescence isothiocyanate conjugate:

Anti-BVDV fluorescence isothiocyanate conjugate was supplied by Sigma immune chemicals (USA) and used for applying direct immunofluorescent antibody technique (DFAT).

Reference BVDV strain:

BVDV (**NADL strain**), supplied by the ELISA unit and Viral strain bank , Animal Health Research Institute and used for applying VNT on the serum samples.

Reference positive immune serum:

Standard reference positive bovine hyper-immune serum of BVDV, supplied by Sigma immune chemicals and used for applying VNT.

Direct fluorescent antibody (DFAT), technique

Tissue sample's supernatants of (Lung, spleen, kidney, lymph nodes and liver) and buffy coats were inoculated into MDBK cells prepared on cover slip in Leighton tubes. DFAT was applied by using anti BVD Fluorescein thiocyanate – conjugate 1/100 dilution according to (**Gerada *et al.*; 1971**).

Antigen detection ELISA

A commercial double antibody sandwich enzymatic immuno assay kit (INGEZIM, DAS-12.BVD K2) (I-C ELISA) was used for detection of BVDV antigen in the Buffy coats, according to the instructions of the manufacturer, (**Meyling, 1984**). This kit is based on a double antibody sandwich enzymatic immuno assay

(DAS or capture ELISA). The plates are coated with a monoclonal antibody to the non structural protein p80/p125 of the BVDV. In this way when a sample is added into the wells, if it contains antigen, the antibodies will catch it

and the conjugate (streptavidine peroxidase conjugate) will bind to the antigen antibody complex. The reading occurs at wave length, 450 nanometer.

Table (1). Different number of samples collected from El-Sharkia and El-kalubia Governorates

Samples Governorate	Number of samples			
	Tissue Samples (Lung, spleen, kidney, lymph nod and liver)	Buffy coats	Serum sample	Total
El-Sharkia	10	36	36	82
El-El-kalubia	18	27	27	72
Total	28	63	63	154

Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) genotyping

PCR of BVDV was done in the tissue samples for RNA virus detection as follow:

RNA extraction was made to cultured isolates using innuPREP RNA mini kit (Analytik Jena

AG, Germany).

Nested – PCR was made according to (Gilbert *et al.*; 1999) using NS5B gene GenBank (accession no. AF078534 to AF078543) with the following primers and cycling condition

The external primers for primary PCR	Primer Sequence	Product size
	5\ AAG ATC CAC CCT TAT GA(A/G) GC 3\	1143 bp
	5\ AAG AAG CCA TCA TC(A/C) CCA CA 3\	
RT-PCR was carried out using Qiagen one step RT kit. Reverse transcription was done at 55°C for 30 min, followed by Hot start denaturation at 95°C for 15 min. The reactions were cycled 25 times at 94°C for 20 s, 50°C for 30 s, and 72°C for 30 s, with a final extension step of 72°C for 15 min.		
The multiplex primers for secondary PCR	5\ TGG AGA TCT TTC ACA CAA TAG C3\	
	5\ GGG AAC CTA AGA ACT AAA TC 3\ (BVDV1 specific) 360 bp	
	5\ GCT GTT TCA CCC AGTT (A/G)TA CAT 3\ (BVDV2 specific) 604 bp	
The product of primary PCR was further amplified using the multiplex primers and Jena Bioscience high yield PCR master as master mix with the same cycling conditions for 40 cycles.		

The final products were electrophoresed in 2% agarose using Generuler as marker (Fermentas) and stained with ethidium bromide.

Detection of BVDV antibodies by virus neutralization test

63 cattle serum samples were heat-inactivated for 30 minutes at 56°C for non specific reaction or inhibitors. A starting of 1/5, serial two fold dilutions of the tested sera are made in a cell-culture grade flat-bottomed 96-well microtitre plate, using cell culture medium as diluent. Positive and negative control sera were used. Virus neutralization test was applied according to (OIE, 2008).

Detection of BVDV antibodies by ELISA technique:

A commercial ELISA kit (INGEZIM BVD compact) was used to detect antibodies against BVDV in 63 serum samples. The test is a competitive immune assay blocking ELISA. The plates are ready coated with BVDV antigen. Controls and serum samples were added & incubated then a specific monoclonal antibodies (MAb) was added. Positive samples will react with the coated antigen; with no reaction with (MAb) giving no color with the substrate, but

the negative samples will react with the (MAb) giving color with the substrate. The reading was done at 450 nm. (Staven and Julia, 1998).

Results

Detection of BVDV antigen using DFAT technique:

The results of BVDV antigen detection using (DFAT) revealed diffuse or granular intracyto-

plasmic fluorescence in infected cells (**Figure 1**). The number of positive samples were; Lung (1), spleen (1), kidney (2), lymph nodes (2) and buffy coats (12) from El-Sharkia Governorates while they were ; Lung (2), spleen (2), kidney (4), lymph nodes (2) and buffy coats (8) from El-kalubia Governorates (**Table 2**)

Table (2). Detection of BVDV antigen by using DFAT technique

Governorate	El-Sharkia			El-Kalubia			Total
Tissue samples	No. of samples	+ve	-ve	No. of samples	+ve	-ve	
Lung	2	1	1	4	2	2	6
Spleen	2	1	1	3	2	1	5
Kidney	2	2	-	4	4	-	6
Lymph Node	2	2	-	4	2	2	6
Liver	2	-	2	3	-	3	5
Buffy coats	36	12	24	27	8	19	63
Total	46	18	28	45	18	27	91

Detection of BVDV antigen using ELISA technique:

The results of BVDV antigen detection using (I-C ELISA) kit, in the buffy coats revealed (30 & 19) positive samples from El-Sharkia and El-kalubia Governorates respectively.

RT-PCR confirmation:

RT-PCR was submitted on five positive samples lungs (2), kidney (2) and lymph node (1) for BVDV type 1 with the specific band at 360

bp. **Figure (2)**

Detection of BVDV antibodies in the serum samples using VNT & ELISA techniques:

The results of BVDV antibodies detection in the serum samples, using (VNT) & competitive ELISA, revealed a number of (26 & 15) and (33 & 21) positive samples from collected from El-Sharkia and El-kalubia Governorates respectively (**Table 3**).

Table (3). Detection of BVDV antibodies in cattle serum samples using VNT and ELISA techniques:

Governorate	No. of serum samples	VNT		ELISA	
		+ve	-ve	+ve	-ve
El-Sharkia	36	26	10	33	3
El-Kalubia	27	15	12	21	6
Total	63	41	22	54	9

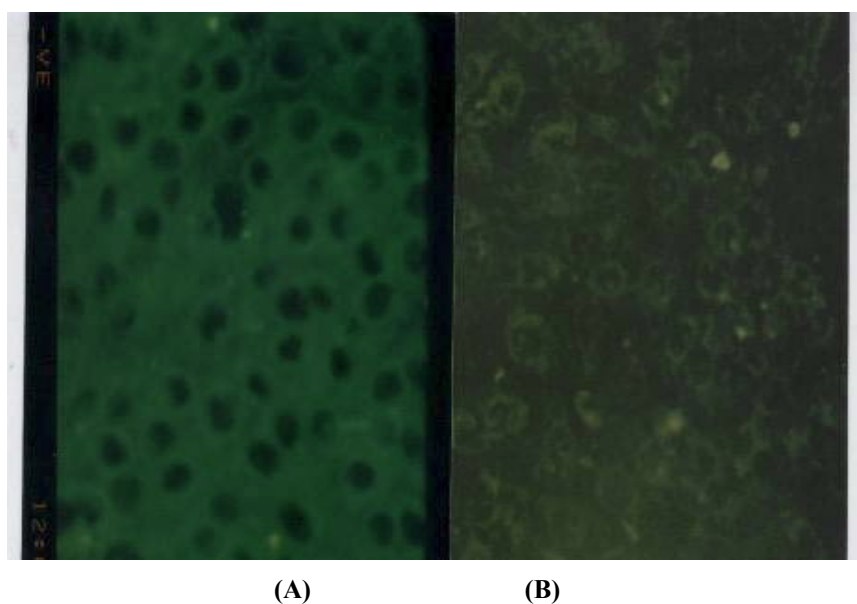
The relationship between VNT results and the reactivity in (ELISA).

The relationship between the positive results of VNT and the reactivity of ELISA revealed that out of (36 & 27) serum samples, collected from

El-Sharkia and El-kalubia Governorates a number of (26 & 15) samples were positive by VNT while by ELISA the positive samples were (33 & 21) in both Governorates respectively (**Table 5**).

Table (4). The relationship between results of VNT and the reactivity in (ELISA)

Governorate	Sharkia			El-kalubia	
	SNT titres	+ve SNT	+ve ELISA	+ve SNT	+ve ELISA
No. of positive samples	>5	7	14	2	8
	5	2	2	2	2
	10	3	3	3	3
	20	6	6	1	1
	40	3	3	3	3
	80	3	3	4	4
	160	2	2	--	--
	320	-	-	--	--
	640	-	-	--	--
Total		26	33	15	21

**Figure (1).** (A) Control MDBK cells. (B) MDBK cells infected by BVDV local strain and stained by fluorescein conjugated anti-BVD serum showing specific diffused intracytoplasmic yellowish green fluorescent color (Mag. 400X).

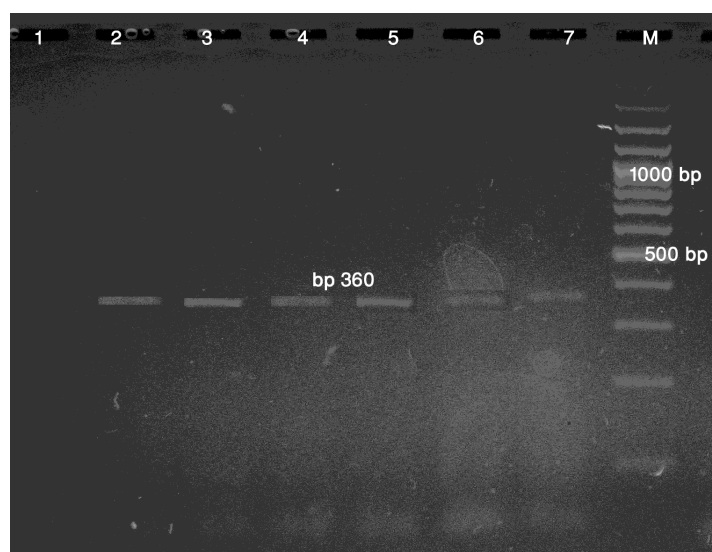


Figure (2). Electrophoretic pattern of field isolates of BVDV Type 1 with the characteristic 360 bp amplicon size

- Control negative Lane No (1)
- Control positive Reference NADL strain Lane No (2)
- Field isolate Lane No (3,4) from lung
- Field isolate Lane No (5,6) from Kidney
- Field isolate Lane No (7) from lymph node
- M Marker (Fermentas- GenRuler # SM1132)

Discussion

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea virus (BVDV) is a pathogen of worldwide importance for cattle, causing significant economic losses. The immunotolerant cattle can shed the virus via secretion and excretion into the environment for a long time, thus being a major source of BVDV infections in herds. The Persistently infected (PI) animals continuously shed virus and act as a major reservoir of infection for other cattle (**Hanaa, et al.; 2010**). BVD with these economic losses, needs accurate and sensitive diagnostic methods for rapid identification and elimination of persistent carriers in the herds. In the past, the most common method was an isolation of virus in cell cultures but it was difficult, time consuming and lengthy process that requires experienced technicians. These years several molecular methods like reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) are used extremely for detection of BVD viral RNA for diagnostic purposes (**Kim and Dobovi 2003**).

In our study, the results of BVDV detection using (DFAT) in the tissue samples and Buffy coats revealed diffuse or granular intracytoplasmic fluorescence in the infected cells (**Figure 1**). The number of positive samples were; Lung (1), spleen (1), kidney (2), lymph nodes (2) and buffy coats (12) from El-Sharkia Governorates while they were ; Lung (2), spleen (2), kidney (4), lymph nodes (2) and buffy coats (8) from El-kalubia Governorates

(**Table 2**). This agreed with the studies of (**Ridpath, 2003**) who stated that FAT is the most useful test for detecting acute infections of BVDV and can detect the virus in cell cultures and in the tissues.

Antigen detection ELISA using monoclonal antibodies is specific for detection of BVD viral antigen. In our study the results of BVDV antigen detection, in the buffy coats by using (I-C ELISA) kit were (30 & 19) positive samples in El-Sharkia and El-kalubia governorates respectively. These results agreed with the study of (**Mark & Gilda, 2001**) who stated that, I-C ELISA is reliable diagnostic tool, can be used for upstream detection of the virus antigen and has sensitivity & specificity reach to 100%. Another studies by (**Nahed et al., 2004**), stated that, buffy coats of pneumonic calves showed high percentage of BVD antigen by using I-C ELISA. Regarding the higher positive results by I-C ELISA than FAT may be due to presence of BVDV antibodies rendered it non infectious for cell culture and also improper handling or storage of the samples also affects BVDV stability, (**Baker, 1995**).

RT-PCR assays for amplification of BVDV had demonstrated its potentiality and ability to amplify strains containing considerable genetic diversity and gathered a lot of information on studying the evolution and pathogenesis of the virus (**Allam, 2000 & Vilcek et al.; 2001**). The assay proved its usefulness in detecting BVDV

in (PI) animals even in the presence of the virus and maternal antibodies (**Tajima *et al.*; 2008**). Primers utilized in the RT-PCR assay have been previously showed its ability to detect any pestiviruses due to its location at highly conserved region of the genome (**Gilbert, 2002**) Although several researchers described PCR assays depends on utilization of primers located at Erns, E1, P54 and P80 but **Laamanen *et al.* (1997)** stated that, 5'UTR and P80 regions are considered the highly conserved regions of pestiviruses genome.

In the present study 5'UTR primers showed its ability to detect BVDV , type 1 in 5 positive (FA &ELISA) samples including, lungs (2), kidney (2) and lymph node(1) with specific band at 360 bp in both samples and the reference NADL strain with constituent and district amplification product like (**Hussein, 2001; Mohamed, 2002 and Hassanein, 2003**) (**figure2**). The amplified target revealed strong visible band (corresponding to the molecular weight marker specific bands), which confirmed primers, and fragment specificity. The PCR control showed negative result (**Deregt *et al.*; 2002 and James *et al.*; 2006**).

With respect to the results of BVDV antibodies detection in the serum samples using (VNT) & competitive ELISA, (26 & 15) and (33&21) positive samples resulted from El-Sharkia and El-kalubia Governorates respectively (**Table 3**).This agreed with the studies which stated that serological examination of serum samples for detection of BVDV antibodies is a useful tool for BVDV herd screening and also for monitoring of BVDV free herd status (**Corapi *et al.*; 2006**). The relationship between the results of VNT and ELISA (**Table 4**) can be explained as, by using VNT , it is easy to read the most laboratory ,highly cytopathogenic and laboratory-adapted strains of BVDV as 'NADL'.strain. Low levels of BVDV type 2 antibodies may not be detectable by a neutralization test that uses BVDV type 1 strain and this can lead to under reporting so ELISA test is good test because it is independent of cell cultures and viruses challenge, gives a test result within a few hours, (**Graham *et al.*; 2003**

and **OIE, 2008**).

In conclusion ELISA test is recommended as a reliable diagnostic tool that can be used for upstream detection of the virus antigen and antibodies. PCR assay proved its usefulness in detecting BVDV even in P.I. animals and in more extent in the presence of the virus and maternal antibodies.

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دراسات حقليّة على فيروس الإسهال البقري الفيروسي في محافظتي الشرقية والقليوبية
***د. / ناهد كمال عبد الحميد, *د. / إيمان محمد بهيج, *د. / وفاء عبد الوهاب و**د. / هناء عبد القادر**
 *وحدة بحوث الإليزا وبنك العترات الفيروسية- معهد بحوث صحة الحيوان
 **قسم البيوتكنولوجيا- معهد بحوث صحة الحيوان

الملخص العربي

تنتشر العدوى بفيروس الإسهال البقري على مستوى العالم محدثة خسائر إقتصادية هامة. إن المرضية التي تحدث بواسطة هذا الفيروس معقدة، لأن عترة الفيروس لها نوعين (2 biotypes)، نوع يحدث تغيير في خلايا الزرع النسيجي والآخر لا يحدث تغيير. من الممكن أن يحدث الفيروس عدوى دائمة وضعف مناعي في الحيوان الذي يصاب بنوع عترة الفيروس التي لا تحدث تغيير في خلايا الزرع النسيجي وذلك في بداية فترة الحمل ثم يتبع ذلك إصابة بنوع عترة الفيروس التي تحدث تغيير في خلايا الزرع النسيجي. في هذه الدراسة تم تجميع عدد 154 عينة (28 أنسجة، 63 خلايا كرات دم بيضاء و63 عينات سيرم) من عجول عمر (2 إلى 12 شهر) والتي تعاني من أعراض تنفسية، إستلقاء، فقدان شهية وتنفس من البطن، كما تم تجميع عينات من عجول سليمة ظاهرياً من محافظة الشرقية والقليوبية. أظهر الكشف عن فيروس الإسهال البقري باستخدام إختبار الفلورسنت المشع المناعي المباشر في الأنسجة و خلايا كرات الدم بيضاء عن وجود فلورسين منتشر أو محبب داخل سيتوبلازم خلايا الزرع النسيجي المعدية بالفيروس، وكان عدد العينات الإيجابية (6 و 12) من محافظة الشرقية و (10 و 8) من محافظة القليوبية على التوالي، بينما الكشف عن أنتيجن فيروس الإسهال البقري باستخدام إختبار الإليزا (Immuno-capture) في عينات خلايا كرات الدم البيضاء أظهر عدد عينات إيجابية (30 و 19) في المحافظتين على التوالي. تم التأكد من وجود الفيروسي عينات الأنسجة باستخدام لإختبار البلمرة المتسلسل (RT-PCR) وأعطى نتيجة إيجابية لفيروس الإسهال البقري (نوع 1) بإظهار باند عند (360 bp) في عدد 5 عينات (2 عينات أنسجة رئوية، 2 كلة و 1 غدة ليمفاوية). الكشف عن وجود الأجسام المناعية المضادة لفيروس الإسهال البقري باستخدام إختبار الفيروس المتعادل أظهر وجود عدد عينات إيجابية (26 و 15) بينما كان عدد عينات الإيجابية باستخدام إختبار اللإليزا (33 و 21) في المحافظتين على التوالي. تم تسجيل العلاقة بين عدد العينات الإيجابية بإختبار الفيروس المتعادل و إختبار الإليزا.