

Evaluation of serological response (IgG) following avian *Metapneumovirus* vaccination and challenge

POSTER PUBLICATION
19th World Veterinary Poultry Association Congress
Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa
7 - 11 September 2015

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This study was conducted in order to determine the behaviour of two live attenuated vaccines against aMPV in relation to IgG production, measurable using the CIVTEST TRT ELISA kit, before and after challenge.

The study was conducted in a total of 135 SPF hens, vaccinated at day 0 via the ocular route with two live attenuated aMPV vaccines, divided into 3 groups: Group A (strain 1062), Group B (strain pl21), Group C (unvaccinated), and challenged at 22 days of age via the ocular route. The vaccinated birds underwent serological testing on day 0, 15, 22, 25, 27 and 42.

An evaluation of weight at the age of sacrifice was also performed for all groups with a view to establishing a link between seroconversion after vaccination with the live vaccine and the protection achieved for the birds.

All the vaccinated groups exhibited a certain degree of seroconversion after vaccination, as well as an increase in seroconversion after challenge, although Group B demonstrated a higher level of seroconversion before and after challenge.

With regard to weight at sacrifice, a significant difference existed only between Groups A and D. No significant difference was observed between Group B and the control group.

With these data, we can state that the level of IgG production induced by live aMPV vaccines is not a good indicator of the degree of protection, although it may be useful for differentiating between flocks in which high pressure from the field virus persists (with high levels of seroconversion) and flocks in which the vaccine is displacing the field virus.

Keywords: *Metapneumovirus, vaccination, seroconversion.*