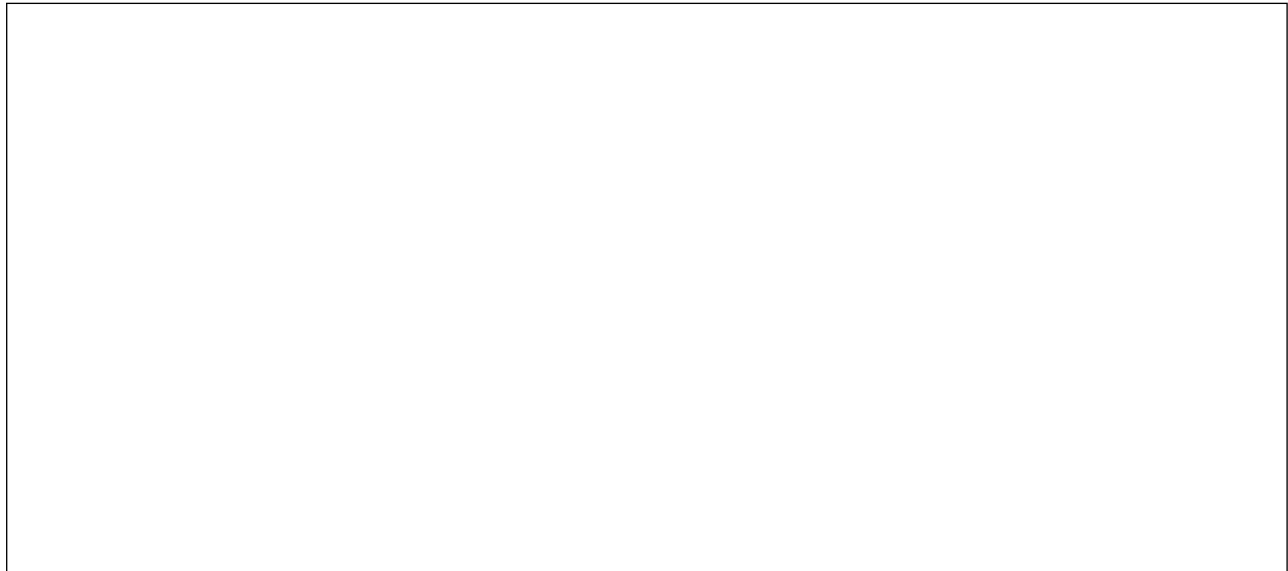


Canine Brucellosis: Insight on Pathogenicity, Zoonosis and Diagnostic Aspects

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Brucella spp. is frequently called as „nasty bugs“ based on their unusual virulence characters. Brucella canis has expertise to live and grow inside phagocytic and non-phagocytic cells. Virulence factors of Brucella are not classical: exotoxin, cytolisins, exoenzymes, plasmids, lipopolysaccharide (LPS), T4SS secretion system and BvrR/BvrS system, which allow association with host cell surface, formation of an early, late BCV (Brucella Containing Vacuole) and relation with endoplasmic reticulum (ER) when the bacteria proliferate. Brucella can modify immune response in host cells due to its affinity to specific tissues, e.g. placental trophoblast in fetal lung, pregnant females or reproductive system. Brucellosis causes enlargement of lymph nodes, liver and spleen. Pathogenicity of Brucella is dependent on their ability to multiply and survive within macrophages. In this review we call attention to brucellosis in dogs, highlight the Brucella canis as an unidentified pathogen and trace the present cognition regarding its zoonotic potential.

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LPS is a crucial virulence factor of Brucella and consists of lipid A, an oligosaccharide core and O-antigen. eLPS is different and non-classical in Brucella as compared to other Gram-negative bacteria like E. coli. eLPS is comparatively less toxic and less active than the classical LPS which cause a high fever. While non-classical LPS observed in B. canis causes a low fever, being a weak inducer of tumor necrosis factor [4, 5].

T4SS (Type IV Secretion System): T4SS is a multi-protein compound involved in production of bacterial macromolecules. VirB operon encoding 12 proteins characterize this system (11, 860 bp). Expression of the virB operon is regulated by the regulator of quorum-sensing – VjbR. Where wild strains of Brucella can proliferate only in the endoplasmic reticulum, VirB mutants of Brucella cannot multiply within the endoplasmic reticulum due to its incapability to reach the ER, or multiply within [6]. In the macrophages, Brucella rods are localized

chronic epididymitis and orchitis may lead to unilateral or bilateral atrophy. In late term abortion accompanied by inodorous, brown to yellow genital discharges, edematous, congested with hemorrhages in the subcutaneous abdominal wall that may die within few days. Various serological diagnostic tests have been available. Isolation of bacteria from blood samples is considered as gold standard. Diagnostic tests have also been developed with varying sensitivity and specificity. Dog brucellosis is acquired by direct contact with infected dogs or their blood. Clinical signs are nonspecific febrile and include fever, headache, back pain, chills/night sweats, etc. It is often misdiagnosed. Unlike dogs, human do respond well to antibiotic therapy. The disease burden can be reduced by preventing unrestricted movement of breeding animals and their offspring before sale. Sterilization of infected animals can limit the disease spread as well as the level of infection in canine population.

is responsible for formation of specialized brucellae- multiplication compartment. The attainment of endoplasmic reticulum membrane is controlled by functional virB secretion system – T4SS.

☒ ☒ : Macrophages containing Brucella produce reactive oxygen intermediates (ROIs), which is a primary mechanism of destruction of the ingested bacteria and also prevents their intracellular replication [7]. The main line of defense that prevents reactive O₂ intermediates includes superoxide dismutase and catalase. SOD (metalloenzyme) is encoded by sod sequence and includes iron, magnesium, or zinc and copper at its active site. SOD is accountable for dismutation of O₂⁻ (superoxide) to H₂O₂ (hydrogen peroxide) and O₂ (oxygen) – transfer from one molecule to another (2O₂⁻+2H⁺ → H₂O₂ +O₂). Catalase breaks down hydrogen peroxide into oxygen and water. Catalase activity is limited to the periplasmic space, where together with Cu-Zn SOD leave external sources of ROI unchanged. Catalase is not a necessary virulence factor; the other enzymes can compensate lack of this enzyme in catalase mutants, e.g. alkyl hydroperoxide reductase or enzymes involved in DNA repair mechanisms.

C -1-2- (C): Brucella C G belongs to II OPGs (Osmoregulated periplasmic glucans) family [8]. These glucans engage in direction of the phagosome- lysosome fusion. Mutants are killed in phagolysosome and they are not allowed to grow. Even more, mutants treated by C G are good to determine vacuole maturation and lysosome fusion, so they can contact the ER and replicate there. Brucella has non-identical urease operons in two distinct genomes. Urease is a metalloenzyme which destroys urea to carbonic acid and ultimately breaks it down into the ammonium form, which increases the pH. This ensures it's persistent in the acidic environment [9]. In chromosome I, there are two urease-operons: ure-1 and ure-2, separated by 1 Mb of DNA. Ure-1 and ure-2 encode structural genes: ureA, ureB, ureC and accessory genes: ureD, ureE, ureF, ureG. Urease may pre(y p)12(e(y p)12a(t)6(a)9 (ni)3 (sm)n ())JTJ0.106s U)43geosomoca(t)6(ae s)5 (t)-5 (r)-oæme..14 (a)5 (nsw 0 -1.2 Td3ge)-5 (r)-es:ae pH.

viscous and serosanguinous vaginal discharge can last for 1–6 weeks after abortion.

The most common gross lesions are observed in the lymph nodes and spleen with variable degree of swelling. The testes show marked swelling with multifocal to diffuse reddish discoloration. In some male dogs, epididymal swelling and scrotal necrosis have also been observed. Non-pregnant female dogs do not show any specific gross lesions. However, an aborting bitch shows brownish vulvar discharge. Aborted fetuses are often partially autolyzed with a brown or greenish-gray placenta. There are also differences in the lungs between adult dogs and aborted fetuses where the changes in the lungs are much less prominent as compared to the findings described for adult dogs having brucellosis [16]. Previous studies have shown that histological alterations in the lung are the most significant lesions in aborted fetus.

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Mild to severe lymphohistiocytic interstitial inflammation is observed in the prostate glands of male dogs suffering from B.canis. Scrotal dermatitis characterized by the infiltration of lymphocytes and neutrophils with epidermal ulceration or crust formation has also been observed in some male dogs. The mammary gland shows multifocal interstitial lymphocytic infiltration in female dogs along with multifocal-to-diffuse lymphocytic

infiltration (m B)17 (4m)4 (e)0.5 ronilahgiw 0 -1terahhgiale drlc2 (t)-5 .1 (t)(c)antaneth19 (p f)9 (o(h)3 (a) r)13 7hs

where coccobacillary organisms as well as many immune cells were observed containing round or oval shaped bacteria in their cytoplasm. performed Bruce ladder multiple PCR assay using tissue samples from reproductive organs to detect *Brucella canis* but compared to tube agglutination method, it was shown to be not a definitive or reliable diagnostic method. evaluated four genes (BCSP31, 16S-23S intergenic spacer region, porins omp2a/omp2b and for insertion sequence IS711) using PCR to detect *Brucella* spp. isolated from blood and urine samples of dogs and found that gene coding for 16S-23S intergenic spacer region is the best choice in the canine clinical samples. for the first time developed a species specific (BcSS) PCR against *B. canis* infection with a detection limit of 6pg/ μ l and by using the buoy coat which was 100 times more sensitive than whole blood. [20] evaluated potency of molecular techniques comparing between PCR and LAMP (loop-mediated isothermal amplification) assay targeting IS711 insertion sequence to detect *B. canis* and found to have 100% specificity for both techniques but with 100% and 44.44% sensitivity in PCR and LAMP. Even scientists have tried using related antigen to detect anti-*Brucella* antibodies in canine blood as sero prevalence study.

Determined the genetic similarity between *Rhizobium tropici* CIAT 899 strain and *Brucella canis* NCTC 10854 strain using RAPD-PCR and evaluated feasibility of using *R. tropici* to detect anti-*Brucella* antibodies but showed elevated result for false positive and false negative sera as compared to Indirect ELISA using *Brucella* antigen itself, hence proved to be not feasible.

Developed enzyme (iELISA) and lateral flow immunoassay (LFIA) using rough Lipopolysaccharide antigens of *B. canis* which was a rapid and easy test that could be used as screening test with high specificity and sensitivity. For both of the developed tests iELISA as well as LFIA, the sensitivity was found to be 98.6%, and the specificity was 99.5% and 100%, respectively. Although nowadays matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) is being performed mostly for identification of bacteria but it is limited to genus level only. But with combination of genotypic characterization, the species level also can be identified for the same [20]. Did genetic characterization and performed MALDI-TOF MS to identify *B. canis* in blood culture.

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B. abortus, *B. melitensis* and biovars 1, 3, and 4 of *B. suis* are associated with zoonoses whereas *B. canis* is less regarded with zoonosis because of various reasons. First, cross species transmission has been seen in different species of *Brucella*. Second, the disease in humans is under reported and misdiagnosed due to the nonspecific nature of clinical signs produced and due to inability of the commercially available serological tests to detect rough *B. canis* bacteria. Third, confirmation of the disease is challenging due to intermittent bacteremia observed in the affected patients making diagnosis extremely challenging.

Human infection has a low prevalence and is acquired by direct contact with infected dogs or their blood or reproductive products viz. aborted material, seminal fluid, vaginal discharge, urine etc. Among different samples, farces and vaginal discharge after abortion contain the highest bacterial load. Pregnant women, children, and immunosuppressed patients among general public and Veterinarians, laboratory workers, dog breeders and animal caretakers/ kennel workers constitute the high risk group. High burden of canine brucellosis in the stray dog population could lead to spill over in humans in areas where intact, stray dogs are taken into shelters or

adopted. Pet owners which adopt an infected dog may also be at high risk of contracting the diseases as neutered dogs can still shed the bacteria in secretions and urine.

The disease burden can be reduced by preventing unrestricted movement of reproductively intact dogs by continuous testing of breeding animals and their offspring before sale. Sterilization of intact stray animals and euthanasia of infected dogs may also limit the disease spread as well as the level of infection in canine population.

The general public must be made aware about the importance of proper diagnosis and methods to limit the further spread of infection

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