Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay for Detection of Infectious Bronchitis Antibody in Chickens Using Local Isolate of PTS III
(Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay Untuk Mendeteksi Antibodi Infectious Bronchitis pada Ayam dengan Isolat Local)

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Memasukan: September 2012, Diterima: April 2013

ABSTRACT

An indirect enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) was developed for screening of antibody to avian infectious bronchitis (IBV). Antigen was prepared from whole virus of infectious bronchitis local isolate PTS-III serotype. Optimum dilution with minimum background for antigen concentration, rabbit anti-chicken conjugate and sera in developed ELISA were determined 0.4μg/well, 1:2000 and 1:100, respectively. Correlation optical densities (OD) were compared with a standard commercial ELISA (R2=0.933). The developed ELISA has a better sensitivity to hemagglutination inhibition (HI) test. The developed local isolate ELISA can be used to detect antibody against infectious bronchitis virus and it is suitable for sample screening at the diagnostic laboratories.

Keywords: ELISA, antibody, chicken, IB PTS-III local isolate

INRODUCTION

Infectious Bronchitis virus (IBV) infects the respiratory tract, kidneys or oviduct of chicken of all ages causing retarded growth, mortality, reduced egg production and inferior egg shell quality (King & Cavanagh 1991). The virus belong to family of Coronaviridae. Corona viruses are enveloped, pleiomorphic, with a mean diameter of approximately 120 nm, club-shaped surface projections -the heavily glycosylate spike (S) glycoprotein. IBVs contain four structural proteins. The S1 and S2 glycoproteins, from the spike or peplomer (S) located at surface of virion. In the peplomer S, the S2 glycoprotein forms the stalk and is anchored in the membrane, whereas the S1 forms the outer bulbous part of the peplomer. The membrane (M) glycoprotein is embedded in the viral lipid bilayer and is only partially (10%) exposed on surface of virion. The nucleocapsid (N) protein is located inside the virion, associated with viral RNA (Cavanagh 1983a,b,c). The role of the S1 glycoprotein in induction of humoral antibody responses, and it induces virus neutralizing (VN) and haemagglutination inhibiting (HI) antibodies (Cavanagh et al. 1984, Koch et al. 1990; Kant et al. 1992). The S1 glycoprotein has been considered to be the most likely inducer of pro-
tection (Cavanagh et al. 1986, Ignjatovic & Galli 1995) and cross-reactive epitopes are the most likely to be involved in protection. The S2 glycoprotein carries epitope which induce cross-reactive antibodies (Kusters et al. 1989; Lenstra et al. 1989; Koch et al. 1990). Immunity to IBV has most often been assessed using traditional serological assay; however, the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is used on a more frequent basis to measure IBV antibodies (Case et al. 1982). The technique initially developed by Engvall & Perlmann (1971) and has been widely used. The use of ELISA offers a number of advantages compared with traditional serological assays, including increase sensitivity and simplicity of automation (Garcia & Bankowski 1981). The cross reactivity of the IB ELISA with several strains of the virus and detection antibodies against other serotypes (Zellen &Thorsen 1986 ; De Wit 2000) support the idea that ELISA is a promising tool for serological studies, especially for use in evaluating the efficacy of vaccination regimens and monitoring the immune status of birds in a flock (Cavanagh & Naqi 2003; Wing et al. 2002). Indirect ELISAs were adapted and standardized for detecting antibodies against whole virus, and S1, S2 and N protein of IBV (Ignjatovic & Galli 1995; Wing et al. 2002) and compared with other serological test (De Wit et al. 1997; Perrotta et al. 1988; Thater et al. 1987). This paper describes study of indirect ELISA for detection of antibody against IBV by using local isolate virus (PTS-III), which its according to the virus circulating in the field.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The local isolate IBV of PTS III as described by Darminto (1992) was propagated in specific pathogenic free embryonated chicken eggs at day 10 (Biofarma, Indonesia) by infecting the virus to allantoic fluid then incubated at 37°C for 72 hours. A thousand ml allantoic fluid was harvested and clarified at 8000g for 30 minutes then EID₅₀ was calculated. It was inactivated 0.05% β-PL and centrifuged at 90.000g for 90 minute in a sorvall AT- 629 (32ml) at 4°C. The pooled result was pelleted in TEN buffer (150 mM NaCl, 10mM Tris-hydrochloride, and 1mM EDTA, pH 7.4) and analyzed for protein content by using Spectrophotometer/Nano Drop Tecnolgies ND-1000 base on Bradford’s method. The solution was finally divided into several aliquots and frozen at 70°C.

Serum IBV was prepared from 20 of specific pathogenic free chickens that reared under controlled conditions in the isolator (BSL-3) and vaccinated day 10 with live H120 (vaccine commercial), day 44 with inactivated oil-emulsion vaccine PTS-III (BBALITVET) and day 57 challenge with 10⁷EID₅₀ of the same virus. The chick-ens were bled at day 10, 24, 34, 44, 57, 70, 78 and 89 of age. A group of specific pathogenic free chicken were reared as negative control and bled at the same time.

Ortho-phenylene diamine (OPD) (Sigma P.23938) was used. Horseradish peroxidase conjugated rabbit anti-chicken IgG (Sigma A.9046) was used.

Antigen was diluted at concentrations 4 mg/ml, 2 mg/ml and 1 mg/ml in carbonate buffer. Known positive IBV and negative sera was diluted at 1:100, 1:200 and 1:500 in dilution buffer. Conjugate was diluted at 1: 1000, 1:2000, 1:3000 and 1:4000. Six replicated reaction were done. The color of reaction was obtained from Ortho-phenylene diamine. The Optical density were measured at 450 nm using an automatic ELISA reader (Multiskan EX, Thermo Lybysystems) and the signal-to noise (S/N) ratio at the same dilution were evaluated.

The ELISA procedure was standardized on the method developed by Case et al (1982) with
some modification. IBV local isolate PTS-III of antigen was assay at concentrations 0.4 μg/50 μl/well in carbonate buffer (0.1M NaCO3, 0.02% NaN3, pH 9.6). Flat bottomed micro plates (Nunc) were coated antigen at same time. After incubate at 4°C for one night, the wells were washed using washing buffer (0.15M NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 1.5 mM NaH2PO4 H2O, 9.0 mM Na2HPO4, and 0.05% Tween 20, pH 7.4) with soaking for 5 minutes at room temperature in each time and trapped out onto absorbent paper. Fifty μl blocking buffer (0.15M NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 1.5 mM NaH2PO4 H2O, 9.0 mM Na2HPO4, 1mM EDTA, 0.5% Casein, and 0.05% Tween 20, pH7.4) was added to each well. The plate was washed after incubation at 37°C for 120 minutes. Serum samples were prepared by diluting 1:100 in phosphate buffer saline (0.15M NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 1.5 mM NaH2PO4 H2O, 9.0 mM Na2HPO4, 1mM EDTA, 0.1% Casein, and 0.05% Tween 20, pH7.4) then 50 μl was added to each well. The plate was washed after incubation at 37°C for 60 minute. Horseradish peroxidase conjugated rabbit anti-chicken IgG was prepared by diluting 1:2000 μl of conjugate buffer (0.5M NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 1.5 mM NaH2PO4 H2O, 9.0 mM Na2HPO4, 1mM EDTA, 0.1% Casein, and 0.05% Tween 20, pH7.4) then 50 μl was added to each well. The plate was washed after incubation at 37°C for 60 minute. A hundred μl of substrate (0.04% OPD, 0.04% H2O2, 0.2M NaHPO4, 0.1 M Citric acid, pH5) was added and incubated at room temperature for 45 minute then stopped by 1M H2SO4. Optical density of each serum was determined by using ELISA reader.

Cut-off value of the ELISA was determined by using optical density (OD) serum from unvaccinated group (as negative control). The average value of OD serum was added three of standard deviation (STDEV) as cut-off value of the ELISA.

The specificity of the developed ELISA was calculated as the percentage of negative in unvaccinated group and the sensitivity was calculated as percentage of positives in vaccinated group. The result of serum obtain by the Elisa (local isolate PTS-III) were compared with those obtained by a commercial kit (IDEXX).

Infectious Bronchitis antigen which tested by using ELISA was evaluated to determine antigen binding reaction and non specific antibodies against other respiratory viral diseases (Infectious Laryngotrachitis).

HI test which conducted by M41 antigen (kindly provided by BPMSOH), was used for the preparation of haemagglutinating antigen as described by King and Hopkins (1983) and Alexander et al (1983).

RESULTS

Antigen, serum and conjugate dilution

The protein content of prepared antigen of IBV local isolate PTS-III was 8.8 mg/ml base on Bradford’s method (Spectrophotometer/Nano Drop Tecnologies ND-1000). We obtained minimal nonspecific binding at 8 mg protein /well. According to titration result by 0,4 μg/well antigen (dilution 1:1000/well), 1:100 chicken serum dilution and 1:2000 conjugate HRPO in S/N ratio which showed expensiveness of conjugate, was chosen. Optical density of ELISA value for positive sera was 6 times greater to negative sera (Figure 1.).

Cross-reaction with other respiratory viral infection

Non specific antibody reaction other respiratory disease (ILT) in local isolate ELISA IB test the average value OD was 0.144, with STDEV
The HI titer (log2) of the positive sera were 0.19, 3.45, 4.05, 3.95, 6.35, 8.3, 8.45, and 8.6 respectively. In non-vaccinated group, HI titer at first and the end of test period were 2.05 and 2.1 respectively. The peak titer in vaccinated group was recorded at day 44 or after 34 days post vaccinated with H120 live vaccine and the titer increased at day 57 (after 2 weeks booster vaccinat-

**Optical density of the local isolate ELISA**

Optical density obtained by local isolate PTS-III and commercial ELISAs were measured from 180 specific pathogenic free chickens sera and 140 specific pathogenic free chickens sera infected IBV (Table 2)

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**Table 1. Identification reaction of non specific other respiratory virus (ILT)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IBV Antigen ELISA</th>
<th>Control Antigen</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>optical density</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.162</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.993</td>
<td>0.005</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.144</td>
<td>0.022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. The result of 140 positive and 180 negative sera tested for IB antibody using local isolate PTS-III and commercial ELISAs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific pathogenic free chicken sera infected IBV</th>
<th>Specific pathogenic free chicken sera</th>
<th>Optical density</th>
<th>local isolate Elisa</th>
<th>Standard commercial Elisa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0.050</td>
<td>0.054</td>
<td>0.062</td>
<td>0.068</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

= days chicken age after live vaccine, **= days chicken after booster kill vaccine,

*= days chicken age after challenge , $= days before vaccinated
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Also the titer was increased rapidly after challenge in ELISAs. Correlation between the local isolate ELISA test and standard commercial ELISA was very high (R2=0.933) in vaccinated and challenged chicken sera, while at the unvaccinated chicken sera has no correlation (R2=0.010)

Cut off optical density of the ELISA

The cut off for the standardized ELISA test was determined as mean of negative sera plus thrice of the standard deviation 0.201 [0.141 + (3x0.020)] (Figure 2.)

Specificity and Sensitivity of the local isolate ELISA

Sensitivity and specificity were evaluated using sample positive (S/P) ratio (Table 2). Percentage of sensitivity local isolate PTS-III ELISA was slightly higher than hemaglutination inhibition test, i.e. 96.42% and 90% respectively. While percentage of specificity between local isolate PTS-III ELISA and hemaglutination inhibition test were 100%.

DISCUSSION

Protective immunity to avian infectious bronchitis is not reflected by humoral antibodies, as shown by Davelaar & Kouwenhoven (1980). Nevertheless, monitoring antibodies after vaccination is a valuable procedure for indicating that responses have occurred. The local isolate ELISA test for measuring antibody level against IBV was developed in this study. The test was standardized in term of reagent to obtain the significant S/N ratio. ELISA test has been developed to monitor

![Figure 2. The cut off for standardized ELISA of local isolate PTS-III](image)

Table 4. Sensitivity and specificity the ELISA local isolate PTS-III dan HI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELISA reaction</th>
<th>Chicken Sera</th>
<th>SPF chicken infected IBV</th>
<th>SPF chicken uninfected</th>
<th>Precentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local isolate IB Elisa</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>135 (a)</td>
<td>0 (b)</td>
<td>Sensitivity 96.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>5 (c)</td>
<td>180 (d)</td>
<td>Specificity 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemagglutination Inhibition (HI) test</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>126 (a)</td>
<td>0 (b)</td>
<td>Sensitivity 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>14 (c)</td>
<td>180 (d)</td>
<td>Specificity 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sensitivity = (a) / (a)+(c) 
Specificity = (d) / (d)+(b) (BALDOCK 1988)
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antibody respond to vaccination against IB (Monreal et al. 1985, Mockett and Darbyshire 1981, Soula & Moreau 1981). Case et al. (1982) optimized the parameter of ELISA for detecting antibody against IBV. They obtained minimal nonspecific binding and very high sensitivity using purified IB as antigen 50 ng protein /well and final NaCl concentration 1.0M in buffer. In this study it was obtained minimal nonspecific binding at 0.4 μg protein/well. According to titration result base on 0.4 μg protein/well at 1:2000 conjugate showed similar significant difference in S/N ratio, and cheaper conjugate was chosen. To eliminate non specific binding in the local isolate -III ELISA, we used blocking buffer (0.15M NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 1.5 mM KH2PO4, 9.0 mM NaHPO4, 0.5% Casein, and 0.05 % Tween 20, pH7.4) after coated antigen. The local isolate ELISA indicated low to moderate level after live vaccination and moderate to relatively high level of antibody IB after injection of inactivated vaccine as well as commercial one. This data was agreed with HI results. In non-vaccinated group OD was lower then that the cut off (0.201) in the local isolate ELISA. Also, the titer of HI test which negative in this group parallel with the ELISAs results. The OD of the ELISAs and HI titer increased slowly following live H120 vaccination and more following oil vaccine injection.

The sensitivity of local isolate PTS-III ELISA was slightly higher than hemaglutination inhibition test, i.e. 96.42% and 91.42% respectively. The results showed specificity was equal 100% between local isolate PTS-III ELISA and hemagglutination inhibition test. Some researcher demonstrated the high sensitivity of the ELISA and correlation of results obtained from the HI test in chicken sera infected intratracheally with IB strain M41 (Mockett & Darbyshire 1981; Soula & Moreau 1981).

The result of antibodies titration showed that the developed local isolate PTS-III ELISA could be reliable, repeatable and more sensitive for monitoring of vaccination schedules and for detection of early rising of antibodies against IB rapidly.

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that local isolate IB PTS III ELISA could be reliable, repeatable and sensitive for monitoring of vaccination schedules and detection of early rising of antibodies against IB rapidly.

AKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was supported by funds from a researcher budget of BBALITVET DIPA in 2012. We thank Heri Hoerudin and Appipudin, and all collaborators helped for implementation of this study.

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