Immunogenicity and duration of immunity of the polyvalent vaccine against chicken salmonellosis

O. M. Sen*, O. O. Saliy***, V. I. Mazurkevych****, Y. A. Sobko*

“Biotestlab” Ltd., Kyiv, Ukraine

Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design, Kyiv, Ukraine

National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

*“Biotestlab” Ltd., Kyiv, Ukraine

**Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design, Kyiv, Ukraine

***National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

Introduction

Poultry salmonellosis is a common disease caused by bacteria of the genus Salmonella. The economic impact of the infection cannot be overlooked, as it inflicts serious economic damage on both the private sector and the economy of the state as a whole. Due to the persistence of the bacteria in the environment and the rapid development of antibiotic resistance, the problem of human and animal diseases with salmonellosis has remained relevant during the last ten years. Despite the detailed study of salmonellosis pathogens, the definitive elimination of this disease is impossible. Also one of the factors in the problem of salmonellosis in the world is the transmission of the pathogen from sick birds to humans. As of August 2019, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (USA) has registered 1003 people infected with Salmonella outbreak strains in 49 states, of which 23% were children under the age of 5. Epidemiologic and laboratory records indicate that contact with backyard poultry, such as chickens and ducklings, from multiple hatcheries were the likely source of infection. Laboratory records indicate that contact with backyard poultry, such as chickens and ducklings, from multiple hatcheries were the likely source of infection.

Poultry salmonellosis is most commonly found, in broilers – S. enteritidis and S. typhimurium; in laying hens S. enteritidis and S. typhimurium. Antigenic and immunogenic efficacy of the vaccine was tested on specific-pathogen free chickens, which were divided into five groups of 10 birds in each group and were vaccinated intramuscularly at 8 and 12 weeks: group A (non-immunized control), group B (S. enteritidis mono-vaccine), group C (S. typhimurium mono-vaccine), group D (S. gallinarum mono-vaccine) and group E (trivalent vaccine Polimun Salmo). None of the immunized birds showed such adverse reactions as abnormal behaviour, mortality or signs of anorexia, depression or diarrhea. Two weeks after the revaccination, 5 birds in each group were challenged by watering 3 cm3 of working suspensions of S. gallinarum, S. typhimurium and S. enteritidis control strains at a concentration of 1 × 109 CFU. 72 h after the challenge, faeces were collected from all chickens in each group to identify Salmonella excretion with faeces, and the chickens were euthanized. Significant protection against the virulent challenge was observed in all immunized groups based on mortality and post-mortem lesions compared with the non-immunized control group. Blood samples were selected weekly from 5 chickens of each group for 184 days. The antigenic efficacy of the vaccines was studied by reaction of haemagglutination in the obtained serum. The potent antigen-specific response to lymphocyte activation found in all immunized groups indicated the induction of immune responses. Overall, the results showed that persistent immunity is formed in 4 weeks after the revaccination and lasts for a productive period. Immune response of chickens on day 184 after vaccination with Polimun Salmo was 1: 647, indicating that the developed polyvalent vaccine against common serovars of S. enterica in poultry is effective and immunogenic and can be further used in field studies.

Keywords: poultry; Salmonella; bacterial host; pathogenic activity of strains; postvaccinal response; reaction of agglutination.
For the prevention of salmonellosis, in addition to antibiotic therapy, disinfection and improvement of the zoonygic conditions of poultry, vaccines are used (Van Immerseel et al., 2005). But vaccination, especially on large farms, is an effective way to address human and avian salmonellosis. Immunization of chickens can reduce both horizontal and vertical transmission of salmonellosa pathogens (Young et al., 2007; Toyota-Hanatani et al., 2009). According to the analysis, vaccinated chickens have a lower prevalence of salmonella in the caecum (38.3% vs. 64.2%; P < 0.001) and genital system (14.2% vs. 51.7% P < 0.001). A lower prevalence of Salmonella in broiler chickens (18% vs. 33.5%; P < 0.001) obtained from vaccinated livestock (Dörea et al., 2010). Factors affecting the ability of Salmonella to infect particular birds, such as chickens, are complex and form the so-called "epizootic triangle" – susceptible animals, pathogens and external influences.

Most scientists agree that the major efforts to prevent salmonellosis should be directed to those serovars which pose the greatest danger to the bird and human body. These serovars for Europe are considered to be S. typhimurium and S. enteritidis, which have a wide range of susceptible organisms. S. enterica serovars such as S. typhi, S. dublin and S. gallinarum have a limited range in which they are associated with one or more animal species (Wigley et al., 2005; Foley et al., 2013; Wigley, 2017).

There is a constant search for ways to prevent contamination of flocks and, therefore, poultry products by Salmonella pathogens (El-Taye et al., 2017; Guo et al., 2017; Dos Santos et al., 2019). When developing a vaccine for chicken salmonellosis, the immune response is complex and involves the interaction of many components of the immune system (Jawale & Lee, 2016; Lalsamithana et al., 2016). The range of registered vaccines against chicken salmonellosis on the Ukrainian market is represented by leading foreign manufacturers, and one domestic vaccine developed by the NEC "Institute for Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine". Protection of poultry is due to the use of most inactivated vaccines, which are usually bivalent, containing as immunogens the serovars of S. typhimurium and S. enteritidis, protective determinants of S. enterica strain (Boyko et al., 2014). Also registered are Salm/Abic Plus, Israel, which additionally introduced the S. infantis serovar and the Cevac SalmoniTEK, USA, with the additional S. kentucky serovar. But available vaccines do not prevent typhoid (the main intracellular bacterial pathogen is the gram-negative bacterium S. enterica serovar gallinarum (S. gallinarum)) and septic disease of chickens, which is manifested in acute mortality, usually 60–70%, and inflammation, typhlitis and oophoritis, and leads to significant economic losses for poultry (Matsuda et al., 2011, Chaudhari et al., 2012; Jawale & Lee, 2016). Therefore, there is a need for polylivalent vaccines that can be safely administered to chickens (especially at a young age) to obtain required immune reactions and adequate protection against salmonellosis. Vaccines against Salmonella can act by various mechanisms. Inactivated vaccines are widely accepted in many countries for the vaccination of commercial table-egg layers. Most inactivated vaccines contain antigens and adjuvants with different levels of protection (Perha Filho et al., 2012). The recent development of novel adjuvant technology is very promising for the development of totally safe, inactivated Salmonella vaccines capable of inducing potent immune stimulation targeting different weapons of the chickens’ immune system (Michiel et al., 2009).

The objective of our research was to study the immunogenicity and duration of immunity of the developed inactivated vaccine Polimun Salmoniabio on vaccinating specific pathogen free (SPF) chickens with monovalent vaccines, made from separate antigens, and multivalent vaccine, with subsequent challenge of vaccinated birds by virulent strains of Salmonella, and to study contamination of internal organs and formation of immunity response during 184 days.

Materials and methods

The bacterial strains of S. enteritidis, S. typhimurium and S. gallinarum were used to make the experimental vaccine batch. Strains were isolated from sick birds in the territory of Ukraine and characterized by the following methods: the compliance of the strains was confirmed by methods of polymerase chain reaction in real time. Culture type was determined according to the European Pharmacopoeia 9.0 04/2013:1947 1.2.2-1.3.1. The safety of veterinary vaccines and immunosera was evaluated (European Pharmacopoeia, 2007). The cultural and enzymatic properties of each strain were tested on media of meat-peptone agar (MPA, HiMedia Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, India) and xylose-deoxycholate lysine agar (XDL, HiMedia Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, India) according to European Pharmacopoeia 9.3. 04/2008: 5027 5.2.7. Evaluation of the efficacy of veterinary vaccines and immunosera (European Pharmacopoeia, 2007) was according to the following procedure: each strain was thawed separately, inoculated in the volume of 0.2 cm³ onto the surface of a Petri dish with agar. The inoculum was rolled out in a circular motion by tilting the cup. The plates were incubated at 35.0–37.0 °C for 24 hours.

The antigenic structure of the strains was typed using salmonellosis O-complex and monoreceptor O- and H-aglutinating sera (manufacturer FCP “Kursk Biofactory” – “BIOK” company) in the agglutination reaction according to the “Guidelines for the use of polyvalent and monovalent Salmonella sera”. The suspension was prepared by washing out microbial cells from Petri dishes with an approximate turbidity of 2 units on a McFarland scale, applied in an amount of 0.25 cm³ to a degreased slide and 0.25 cm³ of specific monovalent serum was added. The glasses were kept in a thermostat at 35–37 °C for 10 minutes. The strain type was evaluated by the reaction of agglutination with O- and H-agglutinating diagnostic sera.

Pathogenic activity of S. gallinarum SG-15, S. enteritidis SE-15, S. typhimurium ST-15 strains was tested on 5 chickens with status "Specific pathogen free" (further – SPF-chickens) at 8 weeks. To this end, the daily culture of S. enteritidis, S. typhimurium, S. gallinarum at a concentration of 10⁵ colony forming units (CFU) in 1 cm³ of suspension was applied by watering 3 cm².

The chickens were observed daily for 14 days. From 1 day after infection and at least twice a week, samples of faeces were collected and sown to detect the content of Salmonella genus bacteria.

From chickens that died liver and spleen were obtained and sown on a XDL agar to detect Salmonella bacteria in the internal organs. After 14 days, the surviving chickens were euthanized.

Following the aseptic rules, the liver, spleen, heart blood, lungs, white and red muscles were sampled for bacteriological examination. The sampled organs were ground in a porcelain mortar using a selenite broth (Hi-Media Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, India) in a ratio of 1:10 0.2 cm³ of the resulting suspension was sown on Petri dishes with MPA and 0.2 cm³ on XDL agar. Selenite broth was transferred to sterile tubes, and the culture cups were incubated at 36.0 ± 0.2 °C for 12 hours, carried re-seeding from the selenite broth on Petri dishes with XLD, the culture cups were incubated at 36.0 + 0.2 °C for 16–18 hours.

Working suspensions in the form of 1-billonth suspension of microbial bodies of Salmonella control (S. typhimurium, S. enteritidis, S. gallinarum) were grown on MPA at 37.0 °C for 24 hours.

To assess the protective efficacy and induction of the immune response we used 8-week-old SPF chickens obtained from SPF chicken eggs, manufactured by VALO BioMedia, Germany. All the experimental work with the participation of the birds was carried out on the basis of the vivarium of BIOTESTLAB Ltd. The vivarium is equipped in accordance with sanitary and hygienic standards (temperature 19.0–24.0 °C, humidity not more than 50%, in natural day-night light mode). During the experiment, the chicks of all groups were held in SPF boxes for isolated confinement. Conditions of keeping, feeding and watering conditions were the same for all groups of birds.

After the immunogenicity study of the vaccine, the studied birds were transferred to the vivarium of Biotestlab Ltd, where they were kept in the premises prepared for the study. Each group of animals was housed in separate cages, the animals were given a balanced feed and had free access to water and feed. All procedures with animals were performed in accordance with international rules and regulations of bioethics.

Monovaccines were prepared from S. typhimurium, S. enteritidis, S. gallinarum antigens, and a 3-antigen multivalent vaccine. The bacterial mass of each strain was accumulated separately on the nutrient medium for bacterial vaccines, incubation was performed for 24 hours at 37.0 °C. The cultures were inactivated by introducing formaldehyde at a rate of 0.2% of the formaldehyde final concentration to the volume of the culture in the initial stage of the stationary phase of its growth, followed by kee-
ping at 37.0 °C for 48 hours with constant stirring. For emulsification of concentrated Salmonella antigens, Twin-80 (Shenzhen RUIQI Industry Co., Ltd, China) was used as the surfactant, and mineral oil with the addition of Span-80 was used as the oil base.

The concentration of microbial bodies of each strain in monovalent and polyclonal vaccines was inactivated at a dose of: S. enteritidis not less than 10^8 CFU, S. typhimurium not less than 10^6 CFU, S. gallinarum not less than 10^5 CFU. Manufactured experimental batches of monovalent and polyclonal vaccines against avian salmonellosis corresponded to quality control in terms of: sterility, harmlessness, antigenic efficiency, immunogenic efficiency, emulsion stability, residual amount of formaldehyde. Chickens with SPF status were divided into five groups (A, B, C, D, E) of 10 birds (n = 10) in each group with individual numbering. Each group was divided into two subgroups (n = 5) to study the antigen (I) and immunogenicity (II) of vaccine. The birds were immunized intramuscularly at a dose of 0.5 cm^3. Group A – control, administered intramuscularly sterile solution of Phosphate Buffer Saline (PBS). Group B – vaccinated with S. enteritidis monovaccine (hereinafter SE-15), Group C – vaccinated with S. typhimurium monovaccine (hereinafter ST-15), Group D – vaccinated with S. gallinarum monovaccine (hereinafter SG-15), Group E – vaccinated with 3-valent vaccine (hereinafter referred to as Polmin Salmo). Poultry revaccination in all studied groups was performed on the 28th day by a similar method at a dose of 0.5 cm^3. After 14 days after revaccination, 5 chickens from groups of the second subgroup (II) were challenged by watering 3 cm^3 of working suspensions of S. gallinarum, S. typhimurium and S. enteritidis control strains at a concentration of 1 × 10^8 CFU. The matrix of immunization and challenge of birds is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups of studied birds</th>
<th>Number of poultry</th>
<th>Indicators of the study</th>
<th>Vaccination and revaccination on 28 day</th>
<th>Study method</th>
<th>Challenge dose, CFU/3.0 cm^3</th>
<th>Method of challenge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>study control</td>
<td>intramuscular sterile PBS 0.5 cm^3</td>
<td>blood sampling challenge</td>
<td>1 × 10^8</td>
<td>oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>study control</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>antigenic efficacy</td>
<td>intramuscular S. enteritidis SE-15</td>
<td>blood sampling challenge</td>
<td>1 × 10^8</td>
<td>oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>immunogenic efficacy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>antigenic efficacy</td>
<td>intramuscular S. typhimurium ST-15</td>
<td>blood sampling challenge</td>
<td>1 × 10^8</td>
<td>oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>immunogenic efficacy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>antigenic efficacy</td>
<td>intramuscular S. gallinarum SG-15</td>
<td>blood sampling challenge</td>
<td>1 × 10^8</td>
<td>oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>immunogenic efficacy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>antigenic efficacy</td>
<td>intramuscular Polmin Salmo (S. enteritidis SE-15, S. typhimurium ST-15, S. gallinarum SG-15)</td>
<td>blood sampling challenge</td>
<td>1 × 10^8</td>
<td>oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>immunogenic efficacy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To assess the antigenic efficacy of the vaccine, blood serum in the reaction of agglutination (RA) was examined. Blood samples were taken from chickens of the first subgroup (I) of each group and from 5 chickens of control group A on 7, 14, 21, 28, 42, 56, 70, 77, 85, 100, 120, 150, 170 and 184 days. Samples were taken from the wing vein of birds in the amount of 2.0–2.5 cm^3 with sterile syringes with a volume of 5 cm^3, and blood serum was obtained. Evaluation of the humoral immune response was performed in the RA. Inactivated bacterial cells of S. enteritidis, S. typhimurium, S. gallinarum monovalent and polyclonal antigens were used as antigens for RA, and serum immunoglobulins of vaccinated chickens were used as antibodies. HA was performed in polystyrene plates with a volume of 1.0 cm^3. Serum was diluted with sterile saline in a ratio of 1:10 to 1:1280. To prepare the initial dilution (1:10), 0.9 cm^3 of saline was added to the first well and added 0.1 cm^3 of serum. In all subsequent wells 0.5 cm^3 of saline was added. From the initial dilution, after thorough mixing, 0.5 cm^3 was transferred to the second well and subsequent dilutions were made from 1:10 to 1:1280. The inactivated bacterial mass of the corresponding salmonella strains was diluted with saline to a concentration of 500 million microbial cells in 1.0 cm^3. The prepared antigen was added by 0.5 cm^3 to each well with serum and mixed thoroughly. Control – antigen + saline. The plates were incubated in a thermostat at 37 ± 1 °C for 18 hours. The results of antigenic efficacy were taken into account in the RA in sampled blood sera of subgroup (I). The reaction was considered positive if the suspension in the well became clear and the bacterial suspension formed in the form of an "open umbrella", indicating the presence of antibodies. The reaction was considered negative (absence of antibodies) if the precipitate of microbial cells at the bottom of the hole was collected in the form of a button, which when shaken, formed a homogenous suspension. 72 h after challenge with control strains, fecal samples were taken from all subgroup (II) chickens in each group to identify the excretion of Salmonella in the faeces, and the chickens were euthanized. Following aseptic rules, internal organs (liver, lungs, spleen, heart, kidneys, testicles, or ovaries) were sampled for bacteriological examination. Sampled organs and tissues were weighed, ground in a porcelain mortar with selenite broth in a ratio of 1:10. The resulting suspension of 0.2 cm^3 was seeded on Petri dishes with MPA (one cup per material), in parallel, faecal masses were incubated in selenite broth. Petri dishes and selenite broth were incubated at 36.0 ± 0.2 °C for 12 hours. At the end of the incubation period, selenite broth was resuspended on Petri dishes with XLD agar and incubated at 36.0 ± 0.2 °C for 16–18 hours. The results were recorded according to the number of CFU isolated from the organs and tissues of chickens after challenge with control strains of Salmonella. The typicality of the strains was evaluated by the results of the agglutination reaction with O- and H-agglutinating diagnostic sera, as described above.

Statistical processing of the obtained results was performed with the calculation of the arithmetic mean (x) and the error of the arithmetic mean (m) using regression and correlation analyses in the ANOVA program, the difference was considered to be significant at P < 0.05 (taking into account the Bonferroni correction).

Results

The study of culture and enzymatic properties of the isolated strains showed that all three strains of S. gallinarum ST-15, S. typhimurium and S. enteritidis on MPA medium grew in the form of rounded colonies of greyish colour with a blue tinge, which is typical for bacteria of the Salmonella genus. On XLD medium, three strains grew in the form of red colonies with a black center. Gram-stained smear microscopy: G (+) rods, size 0.3–0.5 × 0.9–2.5 μm, motile for S. typhimurium, S. enteritidis, and immobile for S. gallinarum.

Thus, it was found that the strain S. typhimurium ST-15 gave a positive reaction with O-sera - receptors: 1, 4, 5 and 12; with H-sera - receptors: i – 1-phase; 1.2 – 2-phase), which is characteristic of S. typhimurium bacteria. Strain S. enteritidis SE-15 gave a positive reaction with O-sera – receptors: 1, 9 and 12; with H-sera – receptors: gm – 1-phase; 0 – 2-phase), which is characteristic of the bacteria S. enteritidis. Strain S. gallinarum SG-15 gave a positive reaction with O-sera - receptors: 1, 9 and 12; with H-sera – no antigen, which is characteristic of the bacteria S. gallinarum.

According to the results of determining the pathogenic properties of the strains, it was found that 100% of infected chickens died with signs characteristic of salmonellosis, in faeces, organ suspensions and on XLD agar there was growth typical for Salmonella (Table 3).

The results of determining the immunogenic efficacy of vaccines in subgroup II birds were taken into account by the indicator of the number of organs from which the culture of the control strain of salmonella was isolated in control and experimental chickens. According to the results of studies, cultures of control strains of Salmonella were not isolated from the organs and faecal masses of poultry of the experimental subgroups, in the control group S. gallinarum, S. typhimurium, S. enteritidis were isolated.
The results of bacteriological examination of organs and tissues of vaccinated chickens 72 hours after infection with control strains of *Salmonella*. Faeces, spleen, kidneys and heart in experimental Petri dishes of the lower row showed no bacterial growth in groups of birds vaccinated with monovaccines *S. typhimurium*, *S. gallinarum* and polyvalent vaccine Polimun Salmo, where the colour of the medium remained red. The results of immunity formation monitoring after vaccination and revaccination of poultry with monovalent vaccines and polyvalent vaccine Polimun Salmo are shown (Fig. 2). The titer of antibodies through the study period is shown to be higher and more stable in polyvalent vaccine due to cross immunity.

### Table 2

The results of *Salmonella* strains typing by antigenic structure using *Salmonella* O-complex and monoreceptor O- and H-agglutinating sera.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strain</th>
<th>Polivalent O-agglutinating serum</th>
<th>No. of monoreceptor O-antigenic complex serum</th>
<th>Monoreceptor H-antigens of phase 1</th>
<th>Monoreceptor H-antigens of phase 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. enteritidis</em> SE-15</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1.45±0.33</td>
<td>1.0±0.2</td>
<td>z1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. typhimurium</em> ST-15</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1.45±0.33</td>
<td>1.0±0.2</td>
<td>z1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. gallinarum</em> SG-15</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1.45±0.33</td>
<td>1.0±0.2</td>
<td>z1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: *– haemagglutination occurred; **– haemagglutination did not occur.

### Table 3

The results of the study of pathogenic properties of *Salmonella* strains – *S. typhimurium*, *S. enteritidis* and *S. gallinarum* taking into account CFU (x ± SD).

### Table 4

The results of bacteriological examination of organs and tissues of vaccinated chickens 72 hours after infection with control strains of *Salmonella* (n = 5).

---

Fig. 1. Results of bacteriological studies of organs and tissues of vaccinated chickens and chickens of control group:

- (a) – Group A (Control group);
- (b) – Group B – immunization with monovaccine *S. enteritidis* SE-15;
- (c) – Group C – immunization with monovaccine *S. typhimurium* ST-15;
- (d) – Group D – immunization with monovaccine *S. gallinarum* SG-15;
- (e) – Group E – immunization with vaccine Polimun Salmo.

Fig. 2. Dynamics of avian immunity formation after vaccination with S. enteritidis (a), S. typhimurium (b), S. gallinarum (c) monovalent vaccines and polyvalent vaccine Polimun Salmo (d)

The immune response of chickens at 184 days after vaccination with monovaccines for S. enteritidis was 1:310, for S. typhimurium is 1:310, for S. gallinarum – 1:225. Immune response of chickens vaccinated with Polimun Salmo on day 184 after vaccination was 1:647, which gives reason to consider that the trivalent vaccine will form a stable immunity throughout whole production period of the chicken.

Discussion

Avian salmonellosis is caused by a large group (over 200 serotypes) of microorganisms. A study of the structure of bacterial diseases of agricultural, wild and ornamental birds in eastern Ukraine found that about 10% of all bacterial diseases of poultry are salmonellosis, three quarters of which are caused by Salmonella serotypes that are pathogenic not only to farm animals, birds and poultry but also to humans – S. enteritidis (45%), S. typhimurium (30%). Host-adapted serovars (S. gallinarum, S. pullorum) caused no more than 25% of cases. It has been found that avian salmonellosis vaccines should contain protective antigens that would stimulate the formation of protective antibodies against the above-mentioned salmonella serotypes (Trockyi, 2012). There were also found patterns in the manifestation of virulence and antigenic properties of the studied strains of Salmonella, namely, the higher the virulence of the strain, the higher its
antigenic activity (Boiko et al., 2017). To develop vaccines against salmonellosis of poultry, socially important strains of Salmonella which often cause food poisoning are chosen, such as S. typhimurium, S. enteritidis and S. gallinarum (Nair et al., 2018; Cao et al., 2019).

In this study, we developed a polyvalent vaccine against salmonellosis and evaluated its protective efficacy in chickens from strains isolated from sick birds in Ukraine. To identify and identify salmonella, conventional methods were used, which included selective enrichment and seeding followed by biochemical tests. Although the methods are time consuming, as they only give predictable results in 3–4 days and final results in 5–6 days, the interpretation of results, sufficient sensitivity and specificity of these methods allow us to reliably establish the culture and enzymatic properties of each strain. Rapid detection methods, such as DNA or RNA probing, immunodetection methods, and nucleic acid hybridization, do not yet have sufficient sensitivity and specificity (Ibrahim et al., 2016). The strains selected by us are virulent and immunogenic. After challenge by feeding 3 cm³ of microbial mass of at least 1 × 10⁷ CFU of each strain, in the birds of the control group on the second day we observed typical clinical signs of acute salmonellosis infection: depression, refusal to feed, polyvalent vaccine against salmonellosis in chickens was studied. Selected strains of Salmonella showed high virulence (invasive) properties in intact chickens, strains were deposited as controls to test the immunogenicity of Salmonella vaccines. The developed vaccine Polimun Salmo contains formalin-inactivated antigens of concentrated cultures of S. enteritidis, S. typhimurium and S. gallinarum with a concentration of each antigen of at least 8 billion microbial bodies in a single dose. The vaccine stimulates the formation of agglutinins in titers of at least 1:647 and provides protection against infection of the internal organs and tissues of the immunized bird, provided that ten DLm control strains are introduced. It was found that the vaccine Polimun Salmo forms the level of specific antibodies in the blood of birds from the 14th day after the second injection and remains stable at this level until the 184th day of observation, i.e. the bird retains a high rate of immune response. The level of antibodies is more pronounced in chickens that have been vaccinated with Polimun Salmo compared to chickens vaccinated with mono vaccines from strains of S. enteritidis, S. typhimurium and S. gallinarum. We believe that the higher the level of antibodies to both homologous and heterologous Salmonella strains, the higher the immune resistance to infection with control strains of Salmonella, the higher the specific resistance of vaccinated chickens to the salmonellosis pathogen. The obtained results state that the developed polyvalent vaccine against pathogens of common serovars of S. enterica poultry is effective and immunogenic and can be further studied in the field.

Conclusion

A combined vaccine was developed for common S. enterica poultry serovars, and the immunogenicity and duration of immunity of the polyvalent vaccine against salmonellosis in chickens was studied. Selected strains of Salmonella showed high virulence (invasive) properties in intact chickens, strains were deposited as controls to test the immunogenicity of Salmonella vaccines. The developed vaccine Polimun Salmo contains formalin-inactivated antigens of concentrated cultures of S. enteritidis, S. typhimurium and S. gallinarum with a concentration of each antigen of at least 8 billion microbial bodies in a single dose. The vaccine stimulates the formation of agglutinins in titers of at least 1:647 and provides protection against infection of the internal organs and tissues of the immunized bird, provided that ten DLm control strains are introduced. It was found that the vaccine Polimun Salmo forms the level of specific antibodies in the blood of birds from the 14th day after the second injection and remains stable at this level until the 184th day of observation, i.e. the bird retains a high rate of immune response. The level of antibodies is more pronounced in chickens that have been vaccinated with Polimun Salmo compared to chickens vaccinated with mono vaccines from strains of S. enteritidis, S. typhimurium and S. gallinarum. We believe that the higher the level of antibodies to both homologous and heterologous Salmonella strains, the higher the immune resistance to infection with control strains of Salmonella, the higher the specific resistance of vaccinated chickens to the salmonellosis pathogen. The obtained results state that the developed polyvalent vaccine against pathogens of common serovars of S. enterica poultry is effective and immunogenic and can be further studied in the field.

References


