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1 **Comparison of Immunoassay and Real-Time PCR Methods for the**
2 **Detection of Jembrana disease virus Infection in Bali Cattle**

3

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15

16

1 **Abstract**

2 A sensitive diagnostic assay for the detection of infections with the bovine
3 lentivirus Jembrana disease virus (JDV) is required in Indonesia to control the
4 spread of Jembrana disease. Immunoassays are used routinely but are
5 compromised by cross-reactive epitopes in the capsid (CA) protein of JDV
6 and the genetically related bovine immunodeficiency virus (BIV). JDV *gag*-
7 specific primers were tested in a real-time PCR assay to detect proviral DNA
8 in peripheral blood mononuclear cells from 165 cattle from the Tabanan
9 district of Bali. JDV-specific amplicons were detected in 9% of the cattle and
10 only 33% of the real-time PCR positive cattle were also seropositive. The
11 delayed seroconversion that occurs after infection with JDV could explain the
12 low concordance between these assays but other factors may be responsible.
13 BIV proviral DNA was not detected in any of the PBMC DNA samples. A high
14 concordance value of 98.6% was found between the JDV plasma derived
15 antigen Western blot and the JDV p26-his recombinant protein ELISA. Only
16 21% of the seropositive cattle had detectable levels of proviral DNA
17 suggesting that the proviral load in recovered cattle is low. A combination of
18 real-time PCR and JDV p26-his ELISA is recommended for the detection of
19 infection with JDV in Indonesia.

20

21 *Keywords:* Jembrana disease virus; bovine lentivirus; BIV; capsid; ELISA;
22 immunoassay; transmembrane epitope

23

24

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1

2 **1. Introduction**

3 Jembrana disease (JD) first occurred in the Jembrana district of the island of
4 Bali in Indonesia in 1964 affecting Bali cattle (*Bos javanicus*). The disease
5 spread quickly to cattle in surrounding districts in Bali and has since been
6 reported in Sumatra, Java and Kalimantan (Desport et al., 2007; Hartaningsih
7 et al., 1993; Soeharsono et al., 1995). Jembrana disease virus (JDV) is a
8 lentivirus that is very similar genetically and related antigenically to the other
9 bovine lentivirus, bovine immunodeficiency virus (Burkala et al., 1999;
10 Chadwick et al., 1995; Desport et al., 2005; Kertayadnya et al., 1993). Unlike
11 BIV, JDV causes an acute infection after a short incubation period of between
12 4 to 15 days (Kertayadnya et al., 1993; Soesanto et al., 1990). High plasma
13 viral loads ($>10^8$ ID₅₀/ml) are detected as the cattle become pyrexic,
14 coinciding with a marked leucopaenia which resolves as the temperature
15 returns to normal and the plasma viraemia declines. Cattle infected with JDV
16 are immunosuppressed transiently (Wareing et al., 1999) and do not develop
17 detectable anti-capsid antibody responses until 5-15 weeks post-infection
18 (Kertayadnya et al., 1993). The CA antibody response peaks between 23 and
19 33 weeks post-infection and persists beyond 59 weeks post-infection
20 (Hartaningsih et al., 1994) whilst the virus has been shown to persist at low
21 levels for at least 25 months after infection (Soeharsono et al., 1990).

22 Diagnosis of JD is achieved currently by monitoring clinical signs during the
23 acute stage of the disease or by using immunoassays with purified plasma
24 derived viral antigens to identify recovered cattle in field surveys (Hartaningsih
25 et al., 1993; Hartaningsih et al., 1994). Recombinant protein antigens are

1 replacing viral antigens increasingly in diagnostic immunoassays for
2 lentiviruses as they have been found to be more sensitive and easier to
3 produce (Celer and Celer, 2001; de Andres et al., 2005). Capsid antigens are
4 often used in these assays since antibodies to this protein develop first and
5 are usually highly conserved within each lentiviral group (Burki et al., 1992;
6 Houwers and Nauta, 1989; Zanoni et al., 1991). Recombinant CA and
7 truncated transmembrane (TM) proteins have been used for the detection of
8 BIV infections using Western blot assays (Abed et al., 1999). An
9 immunodominant epitope was identified in the N-terminal portion of BIV TM
10 (Chen et al., 1994) and a TM peptide ELISA was developed from peptide
11 mapping this region (Scobie et al., 1999). The combination of recombinant CA
12 and TM peptides has now been applied to diagnostic ELISAs for JDV and
13 SRLV (Barboni et al., 2001; Saman et al., 1999). Unlike other lentiviral assays
14 where serological diagnosis usually occurs well before the clinical stage of the
15 disease due to the chronic nature of these infections, reliable detection of
16 seroconversion to JDV using immunoassays cannot be achieved until 5-15
17 weeks after the onset of clinical disease (Desport et al., 2009). A recent
18 review of diagnostic assays for small ruminant lentiviruses (SRLV) concluded
19 that a combination of ELISA and PCR would be the most reliable way to
20 ensure that both recently infected and animals in the post-seroconversion
21 phase of infection would be detected (de Andres et al., 2005). JDV proviral
22 DNA from recovered cattle has been amplified successfully using PCR
23 (Desport et al., 2007) and a qRT-PCR assay is used currently to quantify
24 plasma viral loads during the acute stage of the disease (Stewart et al., 2005).

1 The future control of JD in Indonesia will require a combination of reliable
2 diagnostic assays and surveillance techniques. A comparison of
3 immunoassays using a combination of JDV CA (p26) and transmembrane
4 (TM) antigens and plasma derived JDV antigen was undertaken. In addition,
5 an assessment of the utility of a Real-Time PCR assay for the early detection
6 of JDV proviral DNA was also evaluated.

7

8 **2. Materials & methods**

9 *2.1 Viral strain, plasmid & bacterial host cells*

10 The JDV_{TAB/87} CA plasmid construct in pTrcHisC (Invitrogen) was kindly
11 supplied by Dr Margaret Collins (Barboni et al., 2001) and was transformed
12 into BL21 (DE3) *E. coli* for protein expression and purification (JDVp26-his).

13

14 *2.2 Primers and PCR cloning strategy*

15 Plasmid DNA from JDV clone Jgag6 (Desport et al., 2005) containing the
16 entire JDV *capsid* was used as template for production of a fused JDV
17 p26/TM peptide construct similar to other studies (de Andres et al., 2005;
18 Rosati et al., 2004). Amplification was performed using primers p26BamF and
19 p26TMEcoR (Fig. 1) and the amplified product was digested with appropriate
20 enzymes before ligation into pTrcHisA plasmid digested with BamHI and
21 EcoRI. Plasmids were transformed into Top 10F' *E. coli* competent cells
22 initially and the resulting construct containing the JDV *capsid* sequence from
23 604 – 1222 fused directly to the putative TM principal immunodominant
24 domain epitope was confirmed by sequence analysis. The plasmid was also
25 transformed into *E. coli* BL21 cells for protein expression studies (JDV

1 p26/TM-his). A JDV TM peptide (KVQTGLGCVPRGRYCHFD) which has
2 been reported to encompass the principal immunodominant domain of JDV
3 TM (Barboni et al., 2001) was synthesised in linear form (Proteomics
4 International, Perth) and dissolved in 0.01 M ammonium acetate to form a
5 cyclic peptide (JDV TM^c peptide) as previously described (Scobie et al.,
6 1999).

7

8 *2.3 Protein expression & purification*

9 The JDV p26-his and JDV p26/TM-his positive colonies were grown in 2YT
10 plus 1 mM ampicillin to early log phase culture and induced with 0.1 mM
11 isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside with agitation. The bacterial cells were
12 pelleted, washed once in PBS and resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-
13 HCL pH7.5, 50 mM NaCl, 10 mM imidazole and 5% [v/v] glycerol). The cells
14 were lysed by sonication and the soluble lysate fraction was collected by
15 centrifugation. Eight bed volumes of lysate were added to 1 bed volume of Ni-
16 NTA agarose resin (QIAGEN) in chromatography columns (BioRad) and
17 agitated for 2 h. The lysate was allowed to flow out and washing was
18 performed using native wash buffer pH 8 (250 mM NaH₂PO₄, 2.5 M NaCl and
19 50 mM imidazole). Four bed volumes of elution buffer pH 8 (250 mM
20 NaH₂PO₄, 2.5 M NaCl and 250 mM imidazole) were added and the eluate
21 collected for further analysis. The purified fractions were analysed by SDS-
22 PAGE and stained with Coomassie Brilliant blue to determine yield and purity.
23 Densitometry was used to quantify the levels of recombinant protein.

24

25 *2.4 Serum samples*

1 A panel of 165 sera and DNA samples was collected from Bali cattle sourced
2 from the Tabanan district of Bali where Jembrana disease seropositives have
3 been reported previously (Hartaningsih et al., 1993). A panel of 10 positive
4 sera from experimentally infected cattle and 30 negative cattle from the JDV-
5 free island of Nusa Penida (Hartaningsih et al., 1993) were used as reference
6 sera to determine cut-off values for the ELISA assays. All positive and
7 negative reference sera were tested by plasma-derived antigen Western blot
8 and JDV p26-his Western blot to confirm their immunological status.

9

10 2.5 ELISA

11 Checkerboard titration of antigens and serum dilutions were performed to
12 determine the optimal signal-to-noise ratios for positive and negative sera.
13 NUNC Maxisorb™ plates were coated with either 0.2 µg of JDV p26-his, 0.05
14 µg of JDV p26/TM-his or 1 µg JDV TM peptide (linear or cyclic) per well
15 diluted in 0.1 M carbonate coating buffer pH 9.5 and incubated overnight.
16 ELISA assays were conducted with 100 µL volumes of reagents, except the
17 substrate where a 50 µL volume was added. Sera were tested at a dilution of
18 1:200 (JDV p26-his and JDV p26/TM-his) or 1:16 (JDV TM^c peptide). The
19 plates were washed with PBS/T (PBS plus 0.05% Tween 20) twice before
20 blocking in PBS/T plus 5% skimmed milk powder and incubated for 30 min.
21 The blocking solution was removed and the plates rinsed twice with PBS/T.
22 Diluted sera were incubated for 1 h at 37°C, washed 3 times with PBS/T and
23 a 1:2,000 dilution of rabbit anti-bovine IgG conjugated to HRP secondary
24 antibody (ICN) in PBS/T plus 5% skimmed milk powder was added for 1 h at
25 37°C. The plates were further washed twice with PBS/T and twice with PBS

1 before colour substrate reagent (BioRad) was added for 15 min. The reaction
2 was stopped with 2% [w/v] oxalic acid and the absorbance readings were
3 taken at OD_{405nm}.

4

5 *2.6 Evaluation of ELISA results*

6 User-defined two-graph receiver operating characteristic (TG-ROC) was used
7 with a Microsoft EXCEL (version 11) spreadsheet to select the cut-off values
8 for the different antigens using reference positive (n=10) and negative (n=30)
9 sera (Greiner et al., 1995). This program plots the test sensitivity and
10 specificity against a threshold (cut-off value), assuming the latter to be an
11 independent variable. Two cut-off values were established representing the
12 lower and upper limits of the intermediate range (IR) or 'borderline samples'
13 with a pre-selected accuracy level (95% sensitivity and specificity).

14

15 *2.7 Statistical analysis*

16 The agreement between the ELISA, WB and PCR assays was assessed by
17 concordance (percentage overall test agreement) and by kappa values (to test
18 that agreement is beyond chance agreement) with the reference assay (JDV
19 plasma derived antigen WB) plus a positive reaction in at least one other
20 assay (Fleiss, 1981).

21

22 *2.8 Western Blotting*

23 Western blots were prepared using 2 µg of the recombinant proteins and after
24 overnight transfer nitrocellulose membranes were blocked using 5% skimmed
25 milk in PBS/T for 30 min at room temperature. Test sera were diluted 1:25 in

1 blocking solution and incubated for 1 h. A 1:2000 dilution of horseradish
2 peroxidase labelled rabbit anti-bovine IgG (ICN) was used followed by
3 detection using HRP detection reagents (BioRad).

4

5 *2.9 Extraction of DNA from PBMC*

6 PBMC were prepared using Ficoll density gradient centrifugation. Briefly,
7 peripheral blood was collected into sterile 10 ml tubes (15% EDTA;
8 Vacutainer). Tubes were then centrifuged at 900 g for 10 min. The buffy coat
9 layer was collected and mixed directly with 2 ml of PBS, overlaid onto 6 ml
10 Ficoll (Amersham) in a sterile 10 ml tube and centrifuged at 400 g for 20 min
11 at 4°C. The interphase was collected, cells were washed 3 times in cold PBS
12 and centrifuged at 300 g for 5 min and after the third wash, cells were
13 resuspended with 1 ml PBS and stored at -20°C until required. Genomic
14 PBMC DNA was extracted using the QIAamp[®] DNA Mini Kit (QIAGEN)
15 according to the manufacturer's instructions and stored at -20°C until use. Any
16 extraction using the QIAamp[®] kit that yielded less than 0.05 µg/µl of DNA was
17 concentrated by ethanol precipitation (Sambrook, 2001). DNA extracted from
18 PBMC was assessed by PCR amplification of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate
19 dehydrogenase (GAPDH) gene as described previously (Mohan et al., 2001)
20 using primers GAPDHF (5' CCTTCATTGACCTTCACTACATGGTCTA 3') and
21 GAPDHR (5' GCTGTAGCCAAATTCATTGTCGTTACCA 3'). Only samples
22 which were amplified successfully with GAPDH primers were used in the
23 study.

24

25 *2.10 Amplification of JDV Proviral DNA*

1 Genomic PBMC DNA samples were analysed for the presence of JDV proviral
2 DNA by real-time PCR based on the method described previously (Stewart et
3 al., 2005). All real-time PCR reactions were performed in 0.1 ml tubes and
4 caps (Corbett Research) in a Corbett Rotor-Gene real-time PCR detection
5 system. Each standard and sample was tested in duplicate. All reactions
6 consisted of 1X iQ™ Supermix (100 mM KCl, 40 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.4), 1.6
7 mM dNTPs, 50 U/ml of iTaq DNA polymerase, 6 mM MgCl₂, undefined
8 stabilisers; Bio-Rad), 0.6 mM of each primer, 0.1 μM fluorogenic probe
9 (Geneworks), 0.2 μg of extracted DNA and were made up to a final volume of
10 10 μl using ultra pure water. The one-step protocol consisted of a 5 min
11 inactivation step at 95°C and 40 cycles of 92°C for 2 sec, 95°C for 15 sec and
12 58°C for 30 sec and a final step of 70°C for 10 min. Increases in reporter dye
13 emission were examined in real-time by collecting data during the extension
14 steps. Samples in which DNA copy numbers were above the limit of detection
15 of the real-time PCR assay were defined as JDV proviral DNA positive. A
16 number of samples which were amplified in the real-time PCR assay but were
17 below the limit of detection, yet clearly distinguishable from the JDV-negative
18 DNA control, were re-analysed using conventional PCR. The primer pair JDV1
19 (5' GCAGCGGAGGTGGCAATTTTGATAGGA 3') and JDV3 (5'
20 CGGCGTGGTGGTCCACCCCATG 3') were used to amplify a 360 bp
21 fragment within the *gag* open reading frame as described previously (Desport
22 et al., 2007). Reaction conditions consisted of 1X PCR buffer, 1 mM MgCl₂,
23 0.2 mM of each dNTP, 0.88 mM of each primer (Invitrogen), 0.687 U *Taq*
24 polymerase, 0.4 μg DNA and were made up to a final volume of 50 μl with
25 ultra pure water. Unless stated otherwise, all reagents were from Fisher

1 Biotech. Reaction conditions for the second round of amplification, where
2 necessary, were the same as the first except 1 μ l of first round PCR product
3 was added into 25 μ l reaction volumes. Direct DNA sequencing was
4 performed to confirm the presence of JDV proviral DNA using 0.01 μ g of
5 QIAquick kit (QIAGEN) purified amplicon.

6

7 *2.11 Amplification of BIV proviral DNA*

8 All seropositive animals were tested for the presence of BIV proviral DNA
9 using 0.2 μ g of extracted DNA in a real-time PCR assay as described
10 previously (Lew et al., 2004).

11

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1 **3. Results**

2 Samples from 165 Bali cattle from the Tabanan district of Bali were analysed
3 by ELISA and Western blot for the presence of antibodies against JDV plasma
4 derived antigen, JDV p26, JDV TM peptide or a fused protein construct
5 encompassing both proteins. In addition, PBMC DNA from the same cattle
6 was tested for the presence of JDV proviral DNA using PCR. Since there is no
7 Gold Standard test for JDV, a sample was assigned “positive” status where a
8 positive result was obtained in the reference JDV plasma derived antigen
9 Western blot and at least one other assay. Only 24 of the 165 samples were
10 found to be positive using this method giving a seroprevalence rate of just
11 14.54% (95% confidence interval, 9.2 to 19.9%). This is lower than the
12 seroprevalence rate of 22.1% (95% confidence interval, 15.5 to 28.8%) which
13 was reported in the Tabanan region in a previous study (Barboni et al., 2001;
14 Hartaningsih et al., 1993) but is similar to another study performed in this
15 region at the same time of year where a seroprevalence of 15.6% (95%
16 confidence interval, 7.5 to 23.7%) was reported (Soeharsono et al., 1995).

17

18 *3.1 Plasma derived antigen and JDV p26-his assays*

19 Soluble JDV p26-his recombinant protein was purified successfully from the
20 bacterial lysates and was tested initially against reference JDV positive and
21 negative sera by ELISA to determine cut-off values for the field sera samples
22 (Fig 3a). When the 165 field samples were tested, a 98.6% concordance
23 between JDV positive and JDV p26-his seropositive samples was observed
24 with 99.3% specificity (Table 1). A difference in sensitivity was observed when

1 the JDV p26-his protein was used in Western blot compared to ELISA with
2 lower concordance (91.5%) and kappa values using Western blot (Table 1).

3

4 *3.2 Comparison between JDV p26-his and JDV p26 /TM-his*

5 The results obtained when reference positive and negative sera were tested in
6 the JDV p26 /TM-his ELISA and the JDV p26-his ELISA were very similar with
7 close median values for both assays (Fig. 3a). However, when the field
8 samples were tested, the JDV p26/TM-his ELISA data gave a much lower
9 median value for positive samples and significantly more false negatives
10 ($p < 0.0001$) by Fisher's exact test compared to those obtained with JDV p26-
11 his ELISA (Fig 3b).

12

13 *3.3 JDV TM peptide ELISA*

14 Both the linear and cyclic versions of the JDV TM peptide were tested in
15 ELISA with JDV positive and negative sera. Very low background OD values
16 were observed with both peptides for the negative serum sample (Fig. 2).
17 However, a much greater sensitivity was observed with the positive control
18 serum sample and the JDV TM^c peptide compared to the linear peptide. When
19 the field sera were tested only 8 of the positive serum samples were identified
20 using the JDV TM^c peptide ELISA with a concordance value of 87.3% and a
21 correspondingly low kappa value (Table 1). An additional 5 samples were
22 positive in the JDV TM^c peptide ELISA but only 1 of these was positive in any
23 other test (data not shown).

24

25 *3.4 PCR and Sequencing*

1 JDV specific PCR products were identified from a total of 15 PBMC DNA
2 samples in this study of which only 5 were also seropositive (Table 1). All
3 PCR positive samples were sequenced to confirm the presence of JDV
4 specific products (data not shown). The sensitivity and concordance values
5 were both low for this assay when compared to any of the serological tests
6 (Table 1).

7

8 **4. Discussion**

9 In this study a comparison of diagnostic assays was undertaken to determine
10 which is the most sensitive and reliable method for diagnosing infections with
11 JDV. The plasma-derived whole virus antigen is increasingly difficult to
12 produce in Indonesia as it requires the experimental infection of susceptible
13 cattle with JDV (Hartaningsih et al., 1994; Kertayadnya et al., 1993). The JDV
14 p26-his antigen was found to be more sensitive in ELISA than in Western blot
15 confirming earlier studies (Barboni et al., 2001). Capsid specific antibodies are
16 generally the first detectable response after the delayed seroconversion and
17 therefore JDV p26 is an essential component for a JDV diagnostic assay.
18 However, variable *gag* responses have been reported after experimental
19 infection with BIV and JDV. BIV CA antibodies were detectable from 2 weeks
20 until at least 2.5 years after infection (Whetstone et al., 1990) whilst Gag
21 responses were found in one study to have declined by 40 weeks after
22 infection and in a second study to have remained low or undetectable until
23 190 weeks after infection (Isaacson et al., 1995). We have observed weak to
24 undetectable CA antibody responses in 15% of experimentally infected cattle
25 which, despite having detectable plasma viraemia, also failed to develop the

1 classical febrile response to infection. Interestingly, all except one of these
2 animals developed strong TM responses which were detected using the JDV
3 TM^c peptide ELISA. This suggests that a diagnostic assay based on the
4 detection of JDV p26 or TM peptide specific antibodies may offer greater
5 sensitivity. Indeed, increased sensitivity was reported in an earlier study when
6 JDV p26-his and JDV TM peptide were combined in a single ELISA assay
7 although in this case the JDV TM peptide was linear and the assay was not
8 compared to plasma derived antigen immunoassays (Barboni et al., 2001). In
9 addition, serological detection of the genetically related SRLV was improved
10 by using the combination of Maedi visna virus (MVV) CA and a TM peptide as
11 coating antigens in an ELISA (Celer and Celer, 2001). This has been
12 improved further by expressing the entire CA and TM epitope in a single
13 fusion protein for serological detection of SRLV, Feline immunodeficiency
14 virus and Equine infectious anaemia virus infections (Rosati et al., 2004).
15 When a similar strategy was used for serological detection of JDV infections in
16 this study, a large reduction in the sensitivity of the assay compared to JDV
17 p26-his ELISA was observed when field samples were tested. It is possible
18 that the addition of the JDV TM peptide sequence affected the folding of the
19 CA protein resulting in a sub-optimal configuration in the ELISA plate well.
20 This was supported further by the marked reduction in expression, purity and
21 stability of the protein (data not shown). An increase in sensitivity to 100%
22 was observed if the results from the JDV p26-his and TM^c peptide ELISAs were
23 combined but this was accompanied by an increase in the number of false
24 positives. Further investigations with a larger number of seropositive samples
25 are required to determine whether the combination of these two antigens

1 improves the overall specificity and sensitivity of the diagnostic assay. A
2 reduction in sensitivity was observed when MVV CA and whole TM protein
3 were expressed as a single protein with sensitivity dropping from 88% using
4 the indirect whole virus ELISA to 64% with the indirect fusion protein ELISA
5 (DeMartini et al., 1999). However this was also accompanied by greatly
6 reduced protein expression, stability and purity.

7 The detection of JDV proviral DNA positive cattle in this study was often not
8 accompanied by a detectable antibody response. This could indicate that
9 these cattle have become infected with JDV recently and consequently have
10 not yet seroconverted. Many of the JDV proviral DNA positives were owned
11 by farmers who also owned seropositive animals (data not shown). However,
12 JDV proviral DNA could not be amplified from 79% of seropositives indicating
13 that the proviral load in PBMC of cattle that have recovered from infection with
14 JDV is very low to undetectable. A PCR assay for MVV was recently shown to
15 have a diagnostic sensitivity of 56.7% and this has been attributed to the low
16 number of infected monocytes in the blood (Karanikolaou et al., 2005). The
17 estimated number of peripheral blood monocytes infected by MVV may be as
18 few as 1 in 10^5 to 10^6 even in a diseased animal (Zhang et al., 2000). Greater
19 sensitivity has been achieved with a nested PCR for diagnosis of SRLV
20 infection and sequence diversity has been identified as a factor in
21 amplification detection (Eltahir et al., 2006). Given the genetic stability of JDV
22 strains within Bali this is an unlikely explanation for the failure to detect JDV
23 proviral DNA and it is more likely to be due to the sensitivity of the assay
24 (Desport et al., 2007).

1 The possibility that the seropositives were due to infection with BIV was
2 addressed by testing samples with the sensitive real-time PCR assay (Lew et
3 al., 2004) since serological differentiation between infections with JDV and
4 BIV is not possible yet (Desport et al., 2005). BIV proviral DNA was not
5 detected in any of the seropositive samples in this study. A recent Bayesian
6 validation of the use of PCR and indirect fluorescent-antibody assay for the
7 diagnosis of BIV infections concluded that a substantial misclassification of
8 infection would be expected regardless of which assay was used (Orr et al.,
9 2003). Difficulties in amplifying BIV successfully from PBMC DNA samples
10 have been reported (Saman et al., 1999) and BIV proviral DNA was found to
11 be undetectable in PBMC taken 12 months after experimental infection (Baron
12 et al., 1998). It is therefore likely that the failure to detect any bovine lentivirus
13 proviral DNA in 79% of the seropositive animals is due to low proviral loads.
14 The tropism of JDV is currently under investigation to determine which subset
15 of PBMC is likely to harbour proviral DNA.

16 In conclusion, the JDV p26-his ELISA was found to be a reliable assay for the
17 detection of JDV seropositives that would have been detected previously
18 using plasma derived antigen preparations in Indonesia. The addition of the
19 TM peptide to make a fused p26/TM-his protein did not improve the sensitivity
20 of the assay. A combination of JDV p26-his ELISA and real-time PCR is
21 recommended as the most sensitive method for diagnosis of JDV infection in
22 Indonesia. This is the first study to compare immunological and molecular
23 detection methods for JDV and further studies are underway to determine the
24 detectable proviral load in DNA extracted from PBMC of recovered cattle and

1 to identify peptides that could be used to diagnose infection with JDV
2 specifically.

3

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8 animal research complied with the ethics guidelines at the Disease
9 Investigation Centre, Denpasar.

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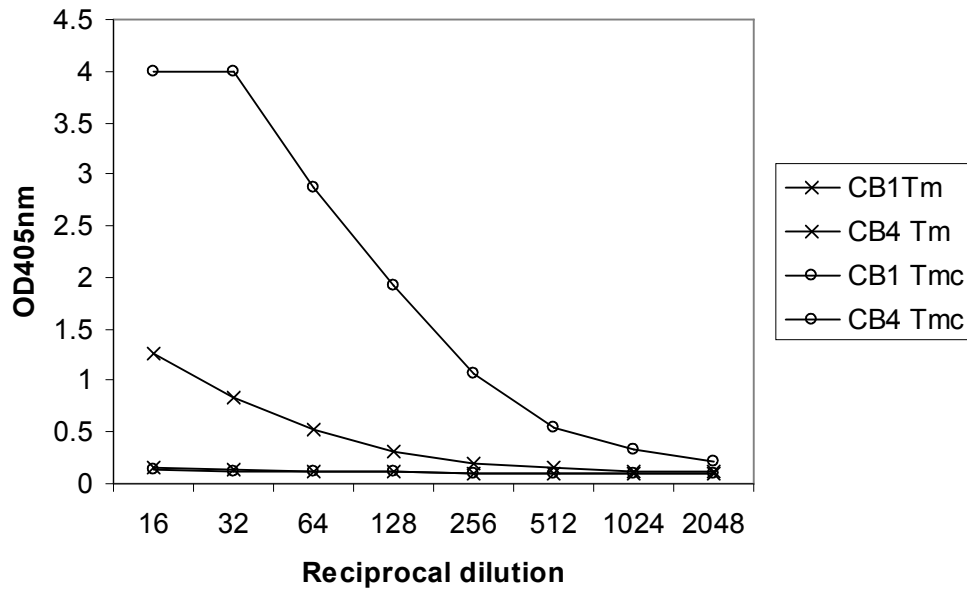
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45

1 **P26BamF**
 2 P Q L R K N F
 3 5' gaccGGATCCCACAACTTAGAAAGAACTTC 3'
 4
 5
 6 **P26TMEcoR**
 P26 TM
 ← →
 P L G P S A P V Q T G L G C V P R G R Y C H F D
 7 CCTTTAGGCCCTCAGCCCCGGTACAAACTGGGCTAGGGTGTGTGCCGAGAGGAAGATATTGCCATTTTGAT
 8 3' **GGAAATCCCGGGAGTCGGGGCCATGTTTGACCCGATCCCACACACGGCTCTCCTTCTATAACGGTAAAACACTTAAG** 5'
 9

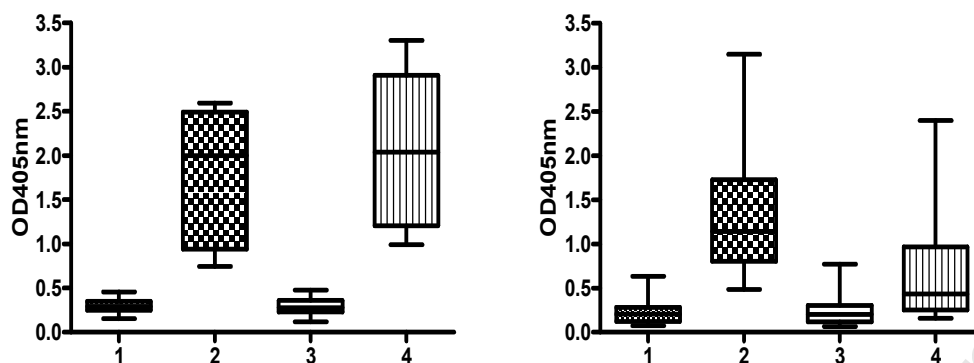
10
 11
 12 Fig. 1. Primer sequences used for the production of a construct encoding JDV
 13 p26/TM peptide. The reverse primer is shown in bold and the amino acid
 14 sequences are also indicated (grey). Grey arrows indicate the fusion between
 15 the C' terminus of p26 and the N' terminus of TM epitope.
 16



1

2 Fig. 2. Comparison of the ELISA absorbances obtained with reference
3 negative (CB1) and JDV positive (CB4) serum samples with 1 μ g JDV TM
4 peptide or 1 μ g JDV TM^c peptide.

5



1

2 (a)

(b)

3 Fig. 3. Box plots of ELISA absorbances obtained using the JDV p26-his and
 4 JDV p26/TM-his purified proteins as coating antigens. The upper and lower
 5 edges of the boxes correspond to the 75th and 25th percentiles, respectively,
 6 with the central line representing the median and the vertical lines the range of
 7 values. (a) Reactivity of reference negative and positive bovine serum to JDV
 8 p26-his (lanes 1 and 2) and JDV p26/TM-his antigens by ELISA (lanes 3 and
 9 4) respectively. (b) Reactivity of JDV native antigen negative and positive
 10 bovine field serum by Western blot in comparison to JDV p26-his (lanes 1 and
 11 2) and JDV p26/TM-his antigens by ELISA (lanes 3 and 4).

12

1 Table. 1. Specificity, sensitivity, concordance and kappa values for ELISA,
 2 WB and PCR diagnostic assays compared to JDV infection status in 165
 3 samples from a group of cattle. Cattle were assumed to have been infected
 4 with JDV if their samples were positive in the JDV plasma derived antigen WB
 5 and at least one other assay.

6

Diagnostic assay	JDV infection		Specificity	Sensitivity	Concordance	Kappa
	+	-				
p26-his ELISA	+ 23	1	99.3%	95.8%	98.6%	0.95
	- 1	140				
p26/TM-his ELISA	+ 9	5	96.5%	37.5%	87.9%	0.41
	- 15	136				
TM ^c peptide ELISA	+ 8	5	96.5%	33.3%	87.3%	0.37
	- 16	136				
p26-his + Tm ^c ELISA	+ 24	6	95.9%	100%	96.4%	0.87
	- 0	135				
p26-his WB	+ 18	8	94.3%	75%	91.5%	0.64
	- 6	133				
PCR	+ 5	10	92.9%	20.8%	82.4%	0.16
	- 19	131				