

and prevention. In particular, we should improve practices of condom use and stress their importance.

PP-171 Production and comparison of high titer lentivirus with different promoters on regulating transgene expression in cells

L. Zhang^{1*}, A.Q. Wang¹, H.W. Li¹, C.Y. Li¹. ¹*School of Biotechnology, Southern Medical University, China*

Objectives: Produce high titer recombinant lentivirus to allow promising vectors to enter clinical trials and elucidate different promoter efficiency on regulating transgene expression in different cells.

Methods: Three lentiviral vector systems were constructed by inserting cytomegavirus (CMV) promoter, human elongation factor-1alpha (EF-1 α) or ubiquitin promoter for regulating the EGFP expression in the transduced 293A, 293FT and MOLT-4 cells. Production, concentration and purification of recombinant lentivirus were achieved by developing a rapid, efficient, and inexpensive method with ultrafiltration. Viral RNA was quantitated by real-time PCR.

Results: Lentiviral RNA could reach a level of 7.7×10^8 copies/ml in the supernatant of 293FT packaging cells and 5.5×10^{10} copies/ml in the concentrates, respectively. CMV promoter was more efficient for regulating EGFP expression in 293A and 293FT cells, which was about 10-fold higher than EF-1 α and ubiquitin promoters. However, EF-1 α promoter showed a higher efficiency than that of the CMV and ubiquitin promoter in MOLT-4 cells. The expression of GFP driven by CMV promoter maintained for over 4 weeks with no apparent decrease in cell passages.

Conclusion: High titer lentiviral stocks can be produced by an optimized ultrafiltration method. Promoter selection and proper host cells should be considered in order to achieve high level transgene expression.

PP-172 Detection of the relation between the presence of Chlamydial antigen in the cervix of infertile women and the condition of their tubes

S. Zaki^{1*}, Ahmed Ismail², M. Topozada², Ashraf Ismail².

¹*Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University,*

²*Obstetrics & Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine Alexandria University, Egypt*

Introduction: Chlamydia infection has now supplanted gonorrhoea as the most common STD in the industrialized nations. Control of this STD is particularly important because of its grave consequences mainly infertility.

Aim: To correlate between the condition of the tube and the presence of Chlamydial antigen.

Subjects and Methods: 100 consecutive infertile women. Cervical specimens for *C. trachomatis* were collected by rotating a cytology brush in the endocervix 360 degrees. Chlamydiazyme and direct immunofluorescent technique were used to detect Chlamydia antigen in the cervix.

Results:

- *Chlamydia trachomatis* was detected in 5% of the cases.
- In 46% of cases, laparoscopy verified the presence of tubal pathology of infertility while 54% had normal fallopian tubes.
- 40% of chlamydia positive cases and 46.32% of chlamydia negative cases had tubal pathology, the difference was not statistically significant, so it is apparent that not every case with cervical Chlamydial infection leads to tubal pathology.
- In 60% of Chlamydia positive cases the etiology of infertility was unexplained compared to only 21.05% of Chlamydia negative cases. This difference is statically significant.

Conclusion: There was no significant relationship between cervical Chlamydial infection and infertility.

PP-173 Isolation of *Chlamydia trachomatis* from cases of cervicitis

S. Zaki^{1*}, A. Awaad¹, N. Hanafy¹, R. Malaty¹. ¹*Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University, Egypt*

Introduction: The increasing prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases together with recent research findings have led to the recognition of Chlamydiae as a frequent cause of genital tract infections, thus adding to their known importance as agents of human diseases. The genital localization of the agent of inclusion conjunctivitis of the newborn had been already recognized at the beginning of this century.

Aim of the work: To establish the rate of infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis* in cases of inflamed cervixes of adult females attending the gynecological clinics of Alexandria Hospitals.

Subjects and Methods: 175 adult females, selected from cases of cervicitis. Endocervical swabs were taken from each patient through introduction of Calcium alginate swabs (Calgi swabs), and preserved in special collection media, then inoculated on tissue culture of McCoy cells for isolation of *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

Results: *Chlamydia trachomatis* was isolated from four out of the 175 cases examined 2.29%. Three of them had cervical erosion, which may offer suitable conditions for growth of *Chlamydia trachomatis*, while the fourth case had endocervicitis.

Conclusion: It appears from this study that *Chlamydia trachomatis* is present in cases of cervicitis.

PP-174 *Chlamydia trachomatis* in cervixes of women in late pregnancy

S. Zaki^{1*}, M. Said¹, S. Gazieryly¹, L. Kholeif², R. Malaty¹.

¹*Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University,*

²*Ministry of Health Maternity Hospital, Egypt*

Introduction: *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections of the genital tract represent the major focus of recent interests in *Chlamydia*. Assessment of the pathogenic role of *Chlamydia trachomatis* in the cervix is important for possible carcinogenic effect of deoxyribonucleic acid which has an intracellular developmental sequence, effect on the fetus, prenatal, intrapartum and effect on fertility if ascending infection to fallopian tubes occurs.

Aim: Detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* in cervixes of pregnant women in late pregnancy, correlation of Chlamydial infection with clinical and cytological picture of the cervix.

Subjects and Methods: 160 women in the third trimester of pregnancy. Cervical scrapings were taken; one smear was stained with Papanicolaou stain for cytology of the cervix and the other by Giemsa stain for detection of intracytoplasmic Chlamydial inclusions. An endocervical swab was taken, placed in special collection medium, then inoculated on tissue culture of McCoy cells for isolation of *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

Results:

- Two *Chlamydia* isolates from two cases with no cervical abnormality.
- Giemsa stained smears, showed intracytoplasmic inclusions in four cases.
- Cervical cytology of 30 cases, showed dysplasia in one case, metaplastic changes in 10 cases and normal cytology in 19 cases. Two of the *Chlamydia*-positive cases showed metaplastic cytological picture while the other four had normal cytology.

Conclusion: *Chlamydia trachomatis* is found in the genital tract of the pregnant females so children born to infected mothers must be examined for Chlamydial infection of the eye, respiratory tract and gastro-intestinal tract, since