

Original Article

Evaluation of Immune Status to Measles in Vaccinated Population in Tehran, by Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay and the Hemagglutination Inhibition Techniques (1386-1387)

Fazlalipour M¹, Monavari SH^{1*}, Shamsi-Shahrabadi M¹, Ataei A¹, Sajjadi N¹

1. Virology Department, Tehran University of medical sciences, Tehran, Iran.

Abstract

Background and Aims: Measles remains one of the leading causes of childhood morbidity and mortality in developing countries and is still a major public health concern in developed countries. Although live attenuated vaccine is used throughout the world, out breaks of disease still occur in many countries including Iran.

Methods: The present study was performed to evaluate the immune status against measles after the mass campaign vaccination in 2003.

Results: In this study, Approximately 172 sera were analysed by ELISA and HI tests. The results indicated, 162 were positive (94.2%) and 10 were negative (5.8%) by HI test and 165 were positive (95.5%) and 7 were negative (4.1%) by the ELISA test.

Conclusion: Understanding measles outbreaks that occur after the initiation of measles elimination efforts will be critical in refining the strategies for measles elimination.

Keywords: Measles; Immune Status; ELISA

Introduction

Measles is of the most contagious diseases which is caused by a virus belonging to the family of paramyxoviridae, genus morbilivirus. The nucleocapsid is surrounded by a viral membrane which contains several viral proteins. Some of these proteins such as viral hemagglutinin induces viral specific antibody which plays a major role in immunity and protection against the virus (18). This antibody can be measured by several tests such as hemagglutination inhibition and Elisa tests. Measles has caused millions of death since its

emergence, thousands of years ago. The disease is characterized by a prodromal illness of fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis followed by the appearance of a generalized maculopapular rash (16). Death from measles is mainly due to an increased susceptibility to secondary bacterial and viral infections, which is attributed to a prolonged state of measles virus- induced immune suppression. In most countries of the world, measles vaccination has had considerable impact on the control of the disease (1). But many countries have reported measles epidemics despite high vaccine action coverage. Measles virus infections in Iran has decreased dramatically since the use of live attenuated measles vaccine (1, 3). If administered properly, live attenuated measles vaccine can induce life long immunity greater than 85% with one dose and about 90% with two doses (2). In the present cross sectional study, HI and ELISA tests have currently gained acceptance as the methods of choice in

*Corresponding author: Seyed Hamidreza Monavari, PhD, Department of Virology, Faculty of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.
Tel/Fax: (+98) 21 88 60 22 05
Email: hrmonavari@yahoo.com

the diagnosis of measles virus infection and in the evaluation of the immune status of an individuals (4, 9). However, HI test has been shown to be less sensitive than the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay test (5-7).

Methods

Sera

The study population who were vaccinated against measles in Tehran without history of the disease included 172 serum samples (61 males and 111 females) in different age groups. Sera were obtained by centrifugation of whole blood collected in tubes without anticoagulant and they were stored at -20 C until used.

HI Test

The HI test was performed by a modification of the method of Gershon and Krugman (4). Serum samples were treated with heating at 56 C for 30 minutes to inactivate complement proteins and then were treated with 25% kaolin in phosphate buffered saline to remove nonspecific factors. The supernatant was mixed with 10% green monkey red blood cells to remove nonspecific factors for agglutination. Briefly, serum samples were diluted 1:8 in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; pH 7.2) containing 0.4% bovine albumin in If-bottom 96well micro plates. Two-fold serial dilutions of sera were made and then four hemagglutinating units of antigen in a volume of 0.025 ml were added. Each well received 0.025 ml of a 0.5% suspension of African green monkey erythrocytes. Plates were shaken and incubated for 1 h at 36°C. The reciprocal of the dilution which completely inhibited hemagglutination was taken as the HI antibody titer. Complete inhibition of agglutination at a >1:8 dilution of serum was considered indicative of immunity.

ELISA Test

The BEIA measles IgG quant Kites a quantitative Enzyme- Linked Immunosorbent assay was used for the detection of specific IgG antibodies to measles virus.

During the first incubation, only anti-measles specific antibodies present in serum or plasma bind to the inner surface of the wells coated

with the measles antigen. After the first incubation the wells were washed to remove non-reactive serum components. During the second incubation a monoclonal antibody anti-human IgG conjugated with horseradish peroxidase (HRP) was added. After a second washing cycle, a sub substrate TMB solution was dispensed in to the wells in order to detect specific antibodies during a subsequent incubation. The enzymatic reaction was then stopped by adding stop solution.

The amount of color was directly proportional to the specific IgG anti-measles concentration in the patient samples. The IgG titer was calculated in international mu/ml by a calibration curve traceable to the international standard. The IgG titer of > 125 mu/rnl was considered to be Positive, The IgG titer of <85 mu/rnl was negative and IgG titer between mu/ml was equivocal 85-125.

Statistical analysis

X²-Test was used to analyze data obtained by SPSS 11.5 software. Differences or correlation with p<0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results

Determination of antimeasles anti-bodies by the HI test

Sera from 172 vaccinated individuals were tested with the standardized HI test for measles virus. As it is shown in table 1, Of these 162 were positive with a titer of > 1:8. In total 94.2% of these sera were positive and 5.8% were negative.

Application of Elisa test for antibody detection Sera from 172 vaccinated cases were also tested with the standardized test for ELISA measles virus. The results are shown in table 2. OF these sera, 165 had IgG titer of > 125 mu/rnl which were considered to be positive (95.5%) and 7 were negative (4.1 %) (Table 2).

Comparison of ELISA and HI results

Because HI test has been commonly used as a standard method for determining immune status, all sera tested by ELISA were also evaluated for HI antibody. ELISA and HI were performed on a total of 172 sera. Of these sera,

Table 1. HI Results for evaluation Of immunity to measles virus in vaccinated individuals.

HI Results	Frequency	Percent
Positive	162	94.2
Negative	10	5.8
Total	172	100

159 (96.4%) were positive and 4 (57.1 %) were negative by both tests; 6 sera that were positive by the ELISA (3.6%) were negative by HI; 3 sera that were positive by HI (42.9%) were negative by ELISA (Table 3).

Discussion

Worldwide, it is estimated that measles kills some 880,000 children annually, a toll more than any other vaccine-preventable disease. The global plan, established by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), was to cut this burden by two-thirds between 2000 and 2005, and thereafter to prevent 600,000 measles fatalities annually (16).

In most countries of the world, measles vaccination has had considerable impact on the control of the disease. But many countries have reported measles epidemics despite high vaccine action coverage. Example of these is measles epidemics of 1988-1990 in the United States of America, Canada, Hungary, Taiwan (11, 12, 13). The present study was performed to evaluate the immune status against measles after the mass campaign vaccination in 2003. In this study, 172 sera were analyzed by ELISA and HI tests. Our study showed that 162 cases (94.2%) of total

Table 2. ELISA Results for evaluation of immunity to measles virus in vaccinated individuals.

ELISA Results	Frequency	Percent
Positive	165	95.5
Negative	7	4.1
total	172	100

population (172) were immune against measles and 10 cases (5.8%) were negative by HI test and 165 cases (95.5%) of total population (172) were immune against measles and 7 cases (4.1 %) were negative by the ELISA test. By using chi-square test, there was no significant correlation between the age group and the mean titers of measles antibodies. Also, there was no significant statistical difference between the male and female in the immunity level ($p > 0.05$).

In one study in Iranshahr district in 1994, among 411 vaccinated children, only 64.3 (271 cases) of the children under the study had antibody against measles virus while 95.6% of these group had been vaccinated (17).

The main purpose of measles vaccine-ation is to prevent the numerous complications that can occur with measles virus infection. If administered properly, live attenuated measles vaccine can induce lifelong immunity. Vaccination failure could be attributed to non-observance of preservation guide lines, use of unsuitable solvents for vaccines, wrong inoculation techniques, low virus efficiency which may be responsible for this lack of responsiveness (10). In addition, it is important to employ sensitive tests to measure immune

Table 3. Comparison of ELISA and HI results in vaccinated individuals.

		+	-	Total
HI Results	+	159 96.4%	3 42.9%	162(94.2%)
	-	6 3.6%	4 57.1%	10(5.8%)
	Total	165(95.5)	7(4.1)	172(100%)

responses induced against a particular vaccine (8, 13, and 14). The results of this study indicated that the level of immune status against measles is acceptable so the immunity is probably lifelong.

References

1. Brown P. A plan to reduce measles deaths. *Nature Medicine*. 2000;6(12):1305.
2. Redd. Sc, Markowitz LE, Katz SL, measles vaccine. In: Plotkin and orensteins' vaccines, 3rd ed. Philadelphia W.B Saunders company. 1999;p:222-265.
3. Reports of epidemiological studies in Iran, years 1996, 1997 and 1998, National Institute for Prevention and control of Diseases. Ministry of health and health education of Iran.
4. Gershon A, Krugman S. Measles virus, In: Diagnostic procedures for viral, rickettsial and Chlamydia infections. American public health association, Washington. D.C. 1979; P: 605-693.
5. Ruckle GE. Methods of determining immunity, duration and character of immunity resulting from measles *Arch. Gesamte Virusforsch.* 1965;16:182-207.
6. Klein EB, O'Brien AJ, Millian SI, Cooper LZ. Low level rubella immunity detected by ELISA and specific lymphocyte transformation. *Arch. Viral.* 1980;60:321-327.
7. O'Byrne A, Brodsky R, Fuccillo D. Enzyme immunoassay for detecting viral infection. 1982; P:139-143.
8. O'Byrne AJ, cooper HR. Hetrogeneous enzyme immunoassay. *J. Histochem. Cytochem.* 1979;27:1148-1162.
9. Voller AD, Bidwell A. Microplate enzyme immunoassays for the immunodiagnostic for virus infections. 1976;P: 506512.
10. Malik A, Ghosh PB, Shukla L, Malik MA. Measles immunity and the optimum age for vaccination. *Indian Pediatr.* 1989;26:769-772.
11. Lee. MS. Seroepidemiology and evaluation of passive surveillance during 1988-1989 measles outbreak in Taiwan. *Int. J Epidermal.* 1992;21:1165-1174.
12. Cuts FT, Laurie E, Markowitz E. successes and failures in measles control. *J.Infect Disc.* 1994;4(1):32 -41.
13. Daie-parizi MH, Janghor-bani M, Ghorbani k. measles epidemics in Kerman, Iran. *Med J Islamic Republic Iran.* 1993;4:249-254.
14. Lee MS, Cohen B, Hand J, Nukes J. A simplified and standardized neutralization enzyme immunoassay for the quantification of measles neutralizing antibody. *J viral Met.* 1992;78:209-217.
15. Neumann P.W, Weber JM, Jessamine AG. Comparison of Measles Antihemolysin Test, Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay, and Hemagglutination Inhibition Test with Neutralization Test for Determination of Immune Status, *J of clinical microbiology.* 1985;p: 296-298.
16. WHO; 1999-2003; progress in reducing measles mortality world wide. *wkly epidermal.Rec.* p: 78-81.
17. Moradi M. Immunity against measles among vaccinated school going children in Zahedan southeast of Iran.
18. Knipe DM, Howley PM. *Fields Vifology.* Fourth edition, U.S.A: Lipincott Raven Publishers. 1994; PP: 1450-1464, 2006.