

APPLICATIONS OF ENZYME-LINKED IMMUNOSORBENT ASSAY IN VETERINARY
MEDICINE: A BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

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During the last decade enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay has
been a technique of major interest to those engaged in immuno-
diagnostics of human and animal diseases. Owing to its simplicity,
specificity and sensitivity it has taken precedence over other con-
ventional assays, including radioimmunoassay on the grounds of
freedom from radiation hazards. Many applications of this assay
have been developed in veterinary medicine and they are listed
in this article.

INTRODUCTION

The ideal characteristics of a diagnostic test are speed,
sensitivity, specificity, safety, potential for automation, broad
applicability and potential for field use. The search for an assay
to meet these criteria led to the development of enzyme-linked
immunosorbent assay (ELISA) which also has the following advantages:

1. Enzyme-labelled antigens and antibodies stored under sterile
conditions can be used for years without any appreciable loss
of their enzymatic and immunological activities (Sharma et al.,
1982).
2. Enzyme-immunoassays are easy to manipulate and they pose a mini-
mum risk of contamination, pollution and health hazards.
3. There is no need for costly equipment and the assay can be
performed easily in a conventionally equipped laboratory.
4. The possibility of using fluorogenic substrates makes enzyme
immunoassays a tool of tremendous potential, since they can
detect extremely small quantities of antigen or antibody, e.g.

to the extent of 10^{-17} g of cholera toxin.

The serious limitation of such an assay is that it requires a meticulous standardization for each system independently. The optimal timings for each step and for the other requirements such as concentration, incubation temperature and pH have to be ascertained precisely, maintaining sufficient control for each reagent. Fortunately, monoclonal antibody has been very useful for generating antisera of predictable specificity, able to overcome background reaction.

The enzyme immunoassays were pioneered a decade ago by Engvall and Perlmann (1971) and are now methods of choice in routine diagnosis. In veterinary practice, sero-epidemiological surveillance is often more important than the diagnosis of disease in an individual animal. ELISA can be applied to gain information regarding the spread of infections, the effectiveness of vaccines in stimulating antibody production and the levels of herd immunity. Many reviews dealing with the various aspects of the assay have been published (Schuurs and Van Weemen, 1977; Jacobson et al., 1978; Voller et al., 1978; O'Beirne and Cooper, 1979). The present review summarizes the applications of the technique specifically in veterinary medicine.

APPLICATION OF ELISA

In principle, ELISA can be applied to all antigen-antibody systems. Numerous applications of ELISA have been developed to-date, including infectious diseases (viral, bacterial, parasitic, fungal), hormones, oncofetal proteins, toxins, serum proteins, drugs and others such as snake venom, adenosine and DNA.

Possibly the greatest potential for ELISA rests in its ability to detect the antigens of infectious agents in clinical specimens. The use of staphylococcal protein-A as the substitute for specific immunoglobulin has doubtlessly increased the horizon of the technique by increasing its versatility and rendering it more economical (Potgieter et al., 1980). However, in certain instances it may be at the cost of the specificity. A wide range of applications has been discovered with regard to detecting a single antigen or antibody, and the scope of the technique may be further broadened in future by screening more than one type of antigen or antibody simultaneously in a single sample by carefully sensitizing the solid phase.

TABLE 1

Publications dealing with the applications of ELISA in
veterinary medicine

VIRUS

African swine fever	Saunders et al., 1977 Wardley et al., 1979 Hamdy et al., 1981
Aleutian disease	Wright et al., 1980
Avian adenovirus	Dawson et al., 1980
Avian encephalomyelitis	Sytuo and Matsumoto, 1981
Avian infectious bronchitis	Garcia and Bankowski, 1980 Mockett and Darbyshire, 1981 Soula and Moreau, 1981 Nandapalan et al., 1982
Avian leukosis	Smith et al., 1979
Aujeszky's disease	Snyder and Stewart, 1977 Moutou et al., 1978 Briaire, 1979 Todd et al., 1981
Blue tongue	Hubschle et al., 1981
Bovine leukosis	Ressang et al., 1978 Behrens, 1979 Todd et al., 1980 Gielkens et al., 1981
Bovine parvovirus	Alberty et al., 1981
Canine adenovirus	Noon et al., 1979
Canine distemper	Noon et al., 1980 Bernard et al., 1982
Coronavirus	Ellen et al., 1979 Callebaut et al., 1982
Equine infectious anaemia	Shen et al., 1979 Suzuki et al., 1982.
Equine infectious peritonitis	Osterhaus et al., 1979
Feline leukemia	Sabin and Finnimore, 1980 Waits et al., 1982
Foot and mouth disease	Abu-Elzein and Crowther, 1978 Abu-Elzein and Crowther, 1979 Crowther and Abu-Elzein, 1979

- Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis Bommeli et al., 1980
 Herring et al., 1980
 Solsona et al., 1980
 Bolton et al., 1981
- Infectious bursal disease Marquardt et al., 1980
 Howie and Thorsen, 1981
- Marek's disease Srivastava et al., 1982
- Murine leukemia Nexo, 1976
- Newcastle disease Charan et al., 1981
 Charan et al., 1983
- Porcine cytomegalovirus Assaf et al., 1982
- Rabies Atanasiu et al., 1977
- Reovirus Slaght et al., 1978
- Rinderpest Rossiter et al., 1981
 Anderson et al., 1982
- Rotavirus Scherrer and Bernard, 1977
 Ellen and Leeuw, 1978
 Yolken et al., 1978
 Bachmann, 1979
 Payment et al., 1979
 Stucker et al., 1979
 Grauballe et al., 1981
 Parker et al., 1979
- Sendai Hamblin and Crowther, 1982
- Swine vesicular disease Roehrig, 1982
- Togavirus Houwers and Gielken, 1979
- Visna/maedi

BACTERIA

- Brucellosis Byrd et al., 1979
 Magee, 1979
 Ruppanner et al., 1980
 Thoen et al., 1980 b
 Rai et al., 1982
 Fuentes et al., 1982
- Chlamydia Fekadu et al., 1979
- Corynebacterium Sahu et al., 1979
- Contagious equine metritis Ellen et al., 1979 b
- E.coli Lloyd, 1981
- Dermatophilus Nicolet et al., 1981
- Haemophilus

Johne's disease

Mycoplasma

Pasteurella

Pseudomonas

Streptococcus

Tuberculosis

PARASITES

Anaplasma

Babesia

Dictyocaulus

Dirofilaria

Fasciola

Ostertagia

Sarcocystis

Strongyles

Taenia

Toxocara

Toxoplasma

Trichinella

Trypanosoma

Jorgensen and Jensen, 1978

Gee, 1979

Onoviran and Taylor-Robinson, 1979

Ansari et al., 1980

Boothby et al., 1981, 1982

Lutz et al., 1982

Burrells et al., 1979

Marshall et al., 1981

Ueda et al., 1982

Logan et al., 1982

Morris et al., 1979

Reggiardo et al., 1980

Thoen et al., 1980c

Thoen et al., 1980 a

Bidwell et al., 1978

Young and Purnell, 1980

Marius et al., 1979

Grieve et al., 1981

Burden and Hammet, 1978

Hillyer and Weil, 1979

Farrell et al., 1981

Keus et al., 1981

Tadros et al., 1979

Murrell et al., 1982

Craig, 1979

Harrison and Sewell, 1981

Savigny et al., 1979

Ambroise-Thomas et al., 1978

Denmark and Chessum, 1978

Lin et al., 1980

Yen et al., 1981

Ruitenbergh et al., 1976

Taylor and Kenny, 1978

Taylor et al., 1978

Ruitenbergh and Buys, 1979

Knapen et al., 1980

Luckin and Mehlitz, 1978

Luckin et al., 1978

Silayo et al., 1980

MISCELLANEOUS

Enterotoxins	Fey et al., 1980
Fungi	Ambroise-Thomas et al., 1978 Richardson et al., 1979
Hormones	Larsson and Lumsden, 1980 Arnstadt and Cleere, 1981
Immunoglobulins	Butler et al., 1980
Meat identification	Kangethe et al., 1982

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