

Serosurveillance of equine influenza viruses in Saudi Arabia 2014-2015**Maged Gomaa Hemida^{1,2}, Mohammed A Al Hammadi¹ and Abelmohsen Alnaeem¹**¹King Faisal University, KSA²Kafrelsheikh University, Egypt

Equine Influenza virus (EIV) is one of the most important viral threats of the family Equidae including horses, donkeys and mules. Despite EIV vaccine application for some equine flocks, many outbreaks still report globally. Little is known about prevalence of EIV in Saudi Arabia. The major goal of the current study was to evaluate the immune status of different horses' population across the kingdom for EIV. To achieve our goal, sera were collected from 450 animals across the kingdom including Al-Hasa, Dammam, Jubail, Qatef, Riyadh and Qasseem. Detection of the EIV antibodies was done by the commercial available EIV-ELISA kits. Our data clearly shows the detection of EIV antibodies in the indicated regions (66%, 45.5%, 14.28%, 44.04%, 80% and 31.57%) respectively. Detection of EIV in non-vaccinated horses suggested the exposure of these animals to EIV natural infection. In conclusion, this study clearly shows the high seroprevalence of EIV across the Kingdom, furthermore, it will pave the way for further molecular characterization of EIV in the Kingdom. To the best of our knowledge, this is the most recent EIV serosurveillance across the Kingdom.

Biography

Maged Gomaa Hemida has received his PhD from University of Guelph, 2009. He pursued his Post doctoral fellow training at the University of British Columbia, James Hogg iCapture Centre. His research area of interest is "One Health Concept" with special emphasis on emerging viruses/host interaction. He is currently studying the molecular evolution and pathogenesis of MERSCoV in the Middle East. He has published more than 40 original research papers in high impacted journals. Meanwhile, he received several research grants, prestigious honors and scholarship throughout his academic carrier. Currently, he is a Reviewer of many granting agencies as well as Editorial Board Member of many international journals.

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