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ABSTRACT
VIII ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to evaluate superiority of HVT+SB-1 Marek’s disease vaccine in comparison with HVT vaccine and to determine the optimum thawing temperature. The highest titre of the vaccine was obtained at a thawing temperature of 35°C for 45 sec followed by thawing at 20°C, 26°C, and 40°C for 45 sec when held on ice. No plaques were observed at thawing temperature of 45°C for 45 sec. The vaccine titres were significantly varied among the different thawing temperatures. The vaccine virus titre declined significantly at 120 min after reconstitution. Both the vaccines complied the safety norm laid down by OIE terrestrial manual 2010. The protective index of HVT+SB-1 and HVT vaccine was 96 and 92.6 respectively. The difference in the percentage of CD8 cells count between HVT+SB-1 vaccinated group and unvaccinated challenged control group was significant on 8th dpv. HVT+SB-1 vaccinated birds had more CD8 cells than HVT vaccinated birds significantly on 23rd dpv. The unvaccinated and challenged control birds had more CD4 cells than the both vaccinated groups. No significant difference in CD4 cells was noticed between HVT+SB-1 and HVT vaccinated groups. qPCR revealed HVT+SB-1 vaccinated birds had less relative MDV-1 load than HVT vaccinated birds indicating the synergistic action of SB-1. Relative load of HVT between HVT+SB-1 and HVT vaccinated birds was not significant (P>0.05). Histopathology revealed infiltration of lymphoid cells was limited in the vaccinated group compared to control birds. Histopathology lesions were fewer and smaller in HVT+SB-1 vaccinated birds compared to HVT vaccinated birds. Infiltration of sciatic nerve with lymphoid cells was absent in HVT+SB-1 and HVT vaccinated group. The study indicated that HVT+SB-1 is a better vaccine than HVT alone against MD.