



# **Experimental preparation of Killed-Rotavirus vaccine and evaluation of immune potential compared to a current available Rotavirus vaccine**

## **A Thesis**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

## **Master degree**

In Pharmaceutical Sciences  
**(Microbiology and Immunology)**

By

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# **Table of Contents**

<b>Acknowledgments .....</b>	<b>.....</b>
<b>Table of Contents.....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>List of Figures .....</b>	<b>VII</b>
<b>List of Tables .....</b>	<b>VIII</b>
<b>Abstract .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Literature Review .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1. Rotavirus (RV) structure .....	6
1.2. RV classification.....	10
1.3. RV Pathogenesis and diarrheal-illness .....	11
1.4. RV Diagnostic Techniques.....	20
1.5. Prevalence of RVGE .....	22
1.5.1. RVGE prevalence worldwide.....	22
1.5.2. RVGE prevalence in Egypt .....	25
1.6. Prevalence of RV strains .....	26
1.6.1 RV strains distribution Worldwide.....	26
1.6.2. Distribution of RV strains in Egypt.....	31
1.7. RVI treatment .....	34
1.8. RV Vaccination .....	35
1.8.1. Attenuated RV vaccines .....	35
1.8.2. Inactivated Rotavirus vaccination approach.....	43
<b>2. Materials and Methods .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>1. Materials .....</b>	<b>45</b>

## Table of Contents

---

1.1. Clinical specimen .....	45
1.2. Viral strains: .....	45
1.3. Cell lines and media .....	45
1.4. Chemical .....	46
1.5. Buffers and solutions .....	46
1.6. Primers .....	46
1.7. Kits.....	46
1.8. Supplements.....	46
<b>2. Methods .....</b>	<b>47</b>
2.1. RV molecular screening .....	47
2.1.1. Collection of stool samples .....	47
2.1.2. Preparation of stool samples.....	47
2.1.3. RNA Extraction .....	47
2.1.4. Identification and genotyping of RV strains .....	48
2.1.5. Agarose gel electrophoresis and bands visualization.....	52
2.2. Cell-lysate bulk production .....	52
2.2.1. The cell-line selection.....	52
2.2.2. The sub-culturing and maintenance of cell lines.....	53
2.2.3. RV strains selection for the designed vaccine trial .....	53
2.2.4. The cells preparation for virus isolation and propagation....	54
2.2.5. RV vaccine-stains isolation on MA-104 and Caco-2 cells ..	54
2.2.6. RV isolates propagation on Vero cells .....	55
2.2.7. Rotavirus antigens pool formation .....	56
2.3. Killed-RV vaccine formulation .....	56

## Table of Contents

---

2.4. Vaccine evaluation .....	57
2.4.1. Pre-Inactivation vaccine confirmatory tests .....	57
2.4.2. Post-Inactivation confirmatory tests.....	57
2.5. Mice immunization.....	57
2.5.1. Mice groups .....	57
2.5.2. The regimen of mice immunization and bleeding.....	58
2.5.3. The serum preparation and evaluation .....	59
2.5.4. Antibodies detection .....	60
2.5.5. Immunogenicity evaluation .....	61
<b>3. Results.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>4. Discussion .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>5. Summary .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>References.....</b>	<b>85</b>
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## **List of Abbreviations**

<b>Ag-Ab:</b>	Antigen - Antibody complex.
<b>Alum:</b>	Aluminum hydroxide gel.
<b>bp:</b>	base pair.
<b>BSA:</b>	Bovine serum albumin.
<b>Caco-2:</b>	Human colonic adenocarcinoma.
<b>CPE:</b>	Cytopathogenic effect.
<b>DMEM:</b>	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's medium with 4.5 g/l glucose and glutamate.
<b>DLP:</b>	Double-layered particle.
<b>ds-RNA:</b>	Double-stranded RNA molecule.
<b>EDTA:</b>	Ethylene-diamine tetra-acetic acid.
<b>ELISA:</b>	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.
<b>EM:</b>	Electron Microscopy.
<b>G protein:</b>	Signify VP7 referring for being a glycoprotein.
<b>HCl:</b>	Hydrochloric acid.
<b>hr:</b>	hour.
<b>HRP:</b>	Horseradish peroxidase enzyme.
<b>IEM:</b>	Immune Electron Microscopy.
<b>IgG:</b>	Immunoglobulin G (Gamma Globulin).

## List of Abbreviations

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<b>IRVV:</b>	Inactivated Rotavirus Vaccine.
<b>L3:</b>	Monooleate/Lauric acid.
<b>MA104 cells:</b>	Monkey kidney epithelial cells.
<b>EMEM:</b>	Eagle minimum essential medium.
<b>MPL:</b>	Monophosphoryl lipid A from <i>Salmonella minnesota</i> .
<b>NAMRU-3:</b>	Naval Medical Research Unit-3, Egypt.
<b>nm:</b>	Nanometer.
<b>NSP:</b>	Non-Structural Protein.
<b>OD:</b>	Optical density.
<b>P protein:</b>	Signify VP4 protein referring to the protease-sensitivity.
<b>PAGE:</b>	Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.
<b>PPAT:</b>	Passive particle agglutination test.
<b>PBS:</b>	Phosphate buffered saline solution.
<b>PCR:</b>	Polymerase chain reaction
<b>PFU:</b>	Plaque forming unit.
<b>RPMI:</b>	Roswell Park Memorial Institute medium.
<b>RRV-TV:</b>	Rhesus reassortant Rotavirus- tetravalent vaccine.
<b>RT-PCR:</b>	Reverse transcription – PCR.
<b>RV:</b>	Rotavirus.
<b>RVGE:</b>	Rotavirus Gastroenteritis.
<b>RVI:</b>	Rotavirus infection.



## **List of Abbreviations**

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<b>TLP:</b>	Triple-layered particle.
<b>TMB:</b>	3,3',5,5'-Tetramethylbenzidine liquid Substrate.
<b>VACSERA:</b>	The Egyptian Holding Company for production of vaccines, sera and drugs.
<b>Vero:</b>	African green monkey kidney.
<b>VLPs:</b>	Virus-like particles.
<b>VP:</b>	Viral protein.
<b>VRBPAC:</b>	Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee.
<b>WHO:</b>	World Health Organization.

## **List of Figures**

<b>Figure 1:</b> Schematic diagram showing Rotavirus structure and position of viral proteins in the virus skeleton. ....	<b>7</b>
<b>Figure 2:</b> RV Pathogenesis .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Figure 3:</b> RV Negative staining .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Figure 4:</b> RV identification in collected stool samples.....	<b>62</b>
<b>Figure 5:</b> VP7 genotyping of the identified RV strains.....	<b>64</b>
<b>Figure 6:</b> VP4 genotyping of the identified RV strains .....	<b>65</b>
<b>Figure 7:</b> RV strains cultivation using Caco-2 cells .....	<b>68</b>
<b>Figure 8:</b> Propagation of RV on Vero cells for bulk cell-lysate production ..	<b>68</b>
<b>Figure 9:</b> IgG antibodies in mice group vaccinated with IRVV .....	<b>71</b>
<b>Figure 10:</b> Immunization in mice vaccinated with IRVV-Alum formula .....	<b>71</b>
<b>Figure 11:</b> Immunogenicity pattern post-vaccination with IRVV/IRVV-Alum trial vaccines.....	<b>72</b>
<b>Figure 12:</b> OD curves for the IRVV-Alum system over time .....	<b>72</b>

## **List of Tables**

<b>Table 1:</b> Rotavirus genome segments and corresponding viral proteins. ....	<b>6</b>
<b>Table 2:</b> Suggested mechanisms of RV pathogenesis. ....	<b>13</b>
<b>Table 3:</b> A summary of RVGE prevalence worldwide.....	<b>24</b>
<b>Table 4:</b> Summary of a selected RV stains surveillance studies worldwide...	<b>29</b>
<b>Table 5:</b> Summary of a selected RV-strains surveillance studies in Egypt. ...	<b>32</b>
<b>Table 6:</b> Factors related to the variation of attenuated vaccines efficacy.....	<b>38</b>
<b>Table 7:</b> Primers for RV identification and genotyping in NAMRU-3 protocol .....	<b>49</b>
<b>Table 8:</b> Mice vaccination and bleeding schedule with trial IRVV/ IRVV- Alum.....	<b>59</b>
<b>Table 9:</b> Identified RV strains in the collected stool samples as determined by VP6 gene amplification results .....	<b>63</b>
<b>Table 10:</b> VP7 and VP4 epitopes estimated within variant RV-positive stool specimens. ....	<b>66</b>
<b>Table 11:</b> Summary of identified and genotyped RV strains estimated in stool samples. ....	<b>66</b>
<b>Table 12:</b> Stool samples of the selected RV epitopes.....	<b>67</b>
<b>Table 13:</b> OD values for negative control groups.....	<b>69</b>
<b>Table 14:</b> The highest-positive OD values and serum-dilutions reciprocal in the mice group vaccinated with the IRVV only .....	<b>69</b>
<b>Table 15:</b> The highest-positive OD values and corresponding serum dilution reciprocal in mice group vaccinated with Alum-IRVV doses. ....	<b>70</b>

# Abstract

Rotavirus (RV) causes a severe diarrheal illness, mostly in children under five-years of age. RV infection (RVI) is a common illness, affects both developed and developing countries in equal rates, approximately. However, more death resulted in poor/ low-income countries due to the absence of constricted and effective health care.

Nowadays, many attenuated RV vaccines have been approved for immunization against RVI. However, the attenuated vaccination drawbacks of elevated cost; low-efficacy in poor countries; strains reassortment risk; and intussusception events, stimulate a real need for developing of new RV vaccination approaches. That's including the inactivated RV vaccination to avoid the active-virus related concerns.

The current study aimed to prepare a pentavalent, inactivated Rotavirus vaccine (IRVV) using the most prevalent strains, circulating in the Egyptian environment. The vaccine immunogenicity was evaluated, after that, in mice as a representing animal model. The selected immunity marker to be detected was the RV-specific IgG antibodies; owing to their high impact in RV immunization. The trial-inactivated pentavalent vaccine immunogenicity was compared with the Rotarix<sup>®</sup> attenuated vaccine. That's to evaluate the immunogenicity of the inactivated approach against the attenuated commercially available one.

As result of the variation in the antigenic content and dosing schedule between the trial-IRVV and Rotarix<sup>®</sup> vaccine, the comparative assessment was dependent on achieving IgG-antibodies level exceeding 1: 6400. That limit implies a less susceptibility of RVI.

The trial-IRVV was developed with Egyptian isolated strains of G1, G2, G3 and G9/ P[8], formulated with 5% sucrose and 2% polysorbate-80 and thermally inactivated at 60°C for 2 hrs. A part of the prepared vaccine was modified with Alum-adjuvant. IRVV and Alum-IRVV trials were injected, subcutaneously, into mice groups at 0, 21, 35 days intervals. In parallel, the reference mice group was vaccinated with Rotarix<sup>®</sup> vaccine twice on 0 and 28<sup>th</sup> days, as recommended by the Rotarix<sup>®</sup> manufacturer.

IgG antibodies elevation was achieved with the pentavalent IRVV/IRVV-Alum formulas, as well as the Rotarix<sup>®</sup> reference vaccine. In all vaccine formulas, IgG antibodies were exceeding the limit of 1:6400, indicating a less susceptibility for RVI and a reasonable immunization.

Further intensive research is needed to reveal the heterotopic and intestinal immunization that could be achieved with the inactivated vaccination approach, besides, application of variant adjuvants to best modify the IRVV immunization pattern.

# Introduction

Rotavirus (RV) is a 75 nm icosahedral, non-enveloped and double-stranded RNA virus, which is constructed from six structural and five non-structural proteins. It was estimated to be the leading cause of severe gastroenteritis in infants and young children, leading to approximately half millions of deaths each year. In Egypt, RV gastroenteritis (RVGE) was considered as one of the most common causes of severe diarrhea and hospitalization among Egyptian children, as well. Moreover, RV diarrheal-illness was estimated to occur at least once in 40 % of the 2-year Egyptian children, where the susceptibility and severity of infection was estimated to be decreased after the first exposure. By increasing the number of previous infections, RV infection (RVI) severity and related complications was found to be markedly decreased.

There is no specific treatment for RVI. For children with healthy immune system, RVI and associated bowel destruction were illustrated to be a self-limited illness that lasting for few days only. As the natural RVI was found to be partially protective against subsequent reinfections. So, the vaccination is the ideal choice for preventing any mortality and morbidity events associated with RV diarrheal-illness. The attenuated vaccines immunization was found to be equivalent to that developed by natural infections, where the attenuated virus proliferates in the wild virus manner; so producing the desired immunity.

The complete protection against moderate-to-severe diarrhea could be resulted after two infections, regardless of the infection type (symptomatic or asymptomatic). Dependently, a multiple-dosing regimen of the designed attenuated vaccines was described for a reasonable immunization.

Despite of the availability of the attenuated Rotavirus vaccines in the market, global immunization is limited especially in the poor countries as result of variant obstacles. In African countries including Egypt, the most considerable RV attenuated-vaccination obstacles are: (i)- The variation of efficacy as result of the limited virus replication under certain circumstances; (ii)- The high vaccination-dose cost which does not match the individual income in these poor countries; (iii)- The fear from the impact of the attenuated vaccination on the African children, who were suffering mostly from immunodeficiency and nutrition problems; and (iv)- Intussusception and living-virus reassortment concerns. Accordingly, the inactivated-Rotavirus vaccination approach is strongly suggested for current research as an alternative strategy for RV immunization. The inactivated RV vaccine (IRVV) could bypass most of the attenuated vaccines weak points, which mostly related to the active virus presence.

Numerous strains were estimated to circulate in Egyptian environment, where G1, G2, G3, G9 and P[8] epitopes were commonly found in these strains. Accordingly, a special concern should be directed to these pentavalent epitopes.