EARLY PATHOGENESIS OF MAREK'S DISEASE:
CORRELATION BETWEEN INITIAL CYTOLYTIC LESIONS AND
INCIDENCE OF MAREK'S DISEASE LESIONS

Yoshitami Ishii
Department of Comparative Pathology
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060, Japan

The early pathogenesis of Marek's disease (MD), especially the correlation between
the initial cytolytic lesions in the lymphoid organs and the incidence of MD lesions in
chicks lacking maternal antibodies to MD virus (MDV), was studied morphologically.
In order to clarify the exact days on which the initial cytolytic lesions occurred and
their sequential changes, the thymus of the same individual was examined by biopsy
at 1, 3, 5, 9, 11 & 13 days post inoculation (p.i.), and the subsequent MD lesions was
investigated by biopsy [at 28 days p.i.]. At the same time, the immunosuppressive effects
of neonatal bursectomy by cyclophosphamide (CY) and surgical bursectomy with X
irradiation were also examined in the same manner. On the other hand, in order to
confirm the lesions in the bursa of Fabricius (BF), the spleen, and the coecal tonsils,
investigations of sequentially killed cases (Groups 7, 8, 9 & 10) were carried out.

In the non-MDV inoculated group, the effects of sequential thymic biopsy, neonatal
CY, and BX were examined morphologically. The results were as follows: 1) the non-
treated thymus (Group 1) showed almost no effect on the lymphoid and other organs
in the sequential thymic biopsy performed at 35 days of age; 2) the thymus treated
with CY (Group 2) showed severe involution initially; however, after 14 days of age,
the involution was recovered gradually; 3) the thymus treated with BX (Group 3) showed
very slight involution until 12 days of age.

In the MDV inoculated group (7 days of age), the following results were obtained:
1) in the thymus of all biopsy groups (Groups 4, 5 & 6), the initial cytolytic lesions
were found at 5, 7 and 9 days (p.i.). The lesions occurred in the biopsy groups treated
with CY and BX (Groups 5 & 6) somewhat earlier than in those of Group 4 (non-
treated), and the extent of the lesions was slight; 2) with the exception of the thymus,
no observation was made of the initial cytolytic lesions of the BF, the spleen, and the
coeal tonsils in the sequentially killed groups treated with CY and BX (Groups 9 & 10); 3)
the incidence and extent of the MD tumor lesions were greater in the group treated
with CY (Group 5) in comparison with the 2 other groups (the non-treated and treated
with BX groups 4 & 6); 4) in the non-treated group, Group 4, the initial cytolytic
lesions and the subsequent incidence of MD lesions showed a close correlation. On the
other hand, in groups treated with CY and BX (Groups 5 & 6), there was no correlation
observed between the two lesions; however, there did appear to be some relation between their immunosuppressed condition and the incidence of MD lesions.

A RADIOIMMUNOASSAY SYSTEM USING A SEROVAR-SPECIFIC LIPOPOLYSACCHARIDE ANTIGEN OF *LEPTOSPIRA*, AND STUDIES ON THE CHEMICAL NATURE OF THE ANTIGENIC SITES

Yoshihiro Kawaoka

*Department of Hygiene and Microbiology*  
*Faculty of Veterinary Medicine*  
*Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060, Japan*

A highly sensitive and serovar-specific radioimmunoassay (RIA) was established to implement studies on the chemical nature of leptospiral antigenic determinant. The serovar-specific lipopolysaccharide (TM) antigen extracted from *Leptospira interrogans* serovar *kremastos* strain Kyoto was labeled with tritium by a reduction using sodium boro[3H]-hydride after 1 h oxidation with periodate for the RIA. When 50 ng (625 cpm) of the labeled compound was used in the RIA system, 50% inhibition of the labeled antigen-antibody binding was obtained by the addition of 9 ng of the homologous TM antigen, whereas 5,000 times as much as the TM antigen from *hebdomadis*, which belongs to the same serogroup, was required. The TM antigens from different serogroups, such as *icterohaemorrhagiae*, *copenhageni* and *pomona*, showed no inhibitions in amounts up to $3 \times 10^3$, $2 \times 10^5$, and $2 \times 10^4$, respectively.

The mild acid hydrolysis of *kremastos* Kyoto TM antigen using 0.5 N sulfonic acid or 2 N formic acid produced an antigen-active fraction which was dialysable. The chemical, physicochemical, and immunochemical properties of the fraction obtained by formic acid hydrolysis were then characterized. This fraction was eluted in a gel filtration at a molecular weight which was calculated at approximately 10,000 dalton. As compared with the original TM compound containing 10.5% protein and 1.5% fatty acid, this fraction lacked almost all of these components and was composed mainly of carbohydrates. However, the antigenic potency of this fraction diminished to 1/350 in the RIA. The carbohydrate nature of the antigenic determinant was also discussed.