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# **Poultry respiratory-reproductive pathogens: influence of sampling techniques on laboratory outcomes**

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# Respiratory system

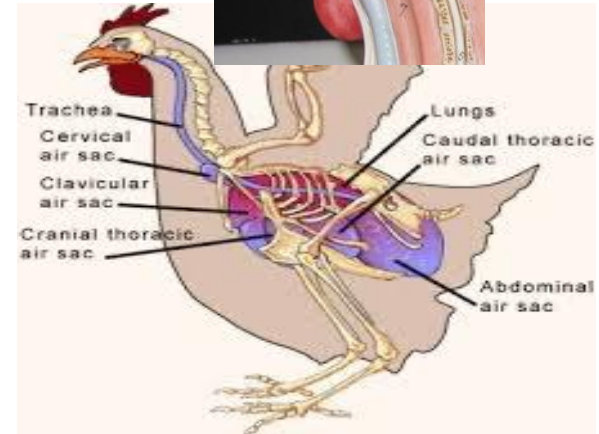
- Upper respiratory tract

- Nares
  - Mechanical filters
- Nasal cavity
  - conchae
- Paranasal sinus
  - Infraorbital sinuses

micro-filtration,  
warms  
moisture

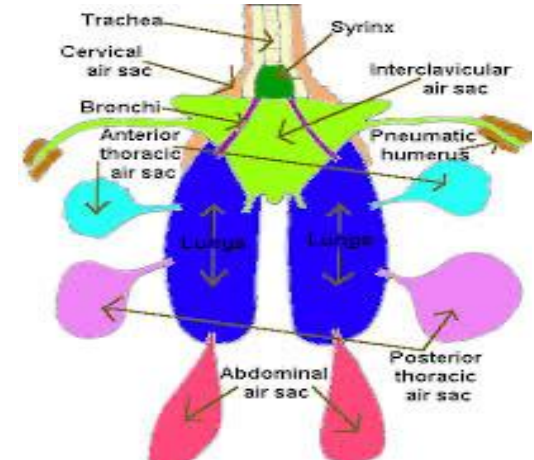
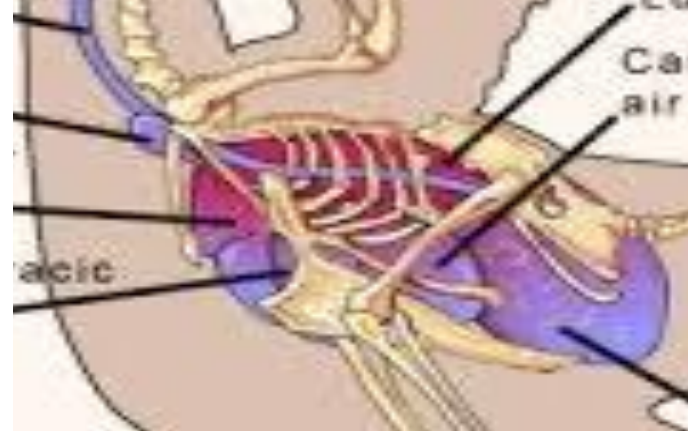
- Lower respiratory tract

- Air passes through the *Choanae* to larynx.
- Larynx – not connected to sound creation.
- Larynx to trachea (complete cartilaginous rings)
- End of trachea, bifurcates onto bronchus



# Respiratory system

- Bronchi, air sacs and lungs
  - No diaphragm in birds
  - Lungs are fixed, do not expand
  - Air sacs – plays essential role
    - Number of air sacs variable depending on species
    - See diagram for the locations of air sacs
    - Thoracic and abdominal muscle movements allows inspiration and expiration of air and movements



# Important & common chicken respiratory-reproductive pathogens

Pathogens	Respiratory	Reproductive
Infectious bronchitis virus (IBV)	+++	+++
Avian metapneumovirus (aMPV)	++	+
Infectious laryngotracheitis virus (ILTV)	+++	+
<i>Mycoplasma gallisepticum</i> (Mg)	+++	++
<i>Mycoplasma synoviae</i> (Ms)	++	+++
Others ...		

# Chicken respiratory-reproductive viruses: missing diagnosis due to similar clinical signs and lesions

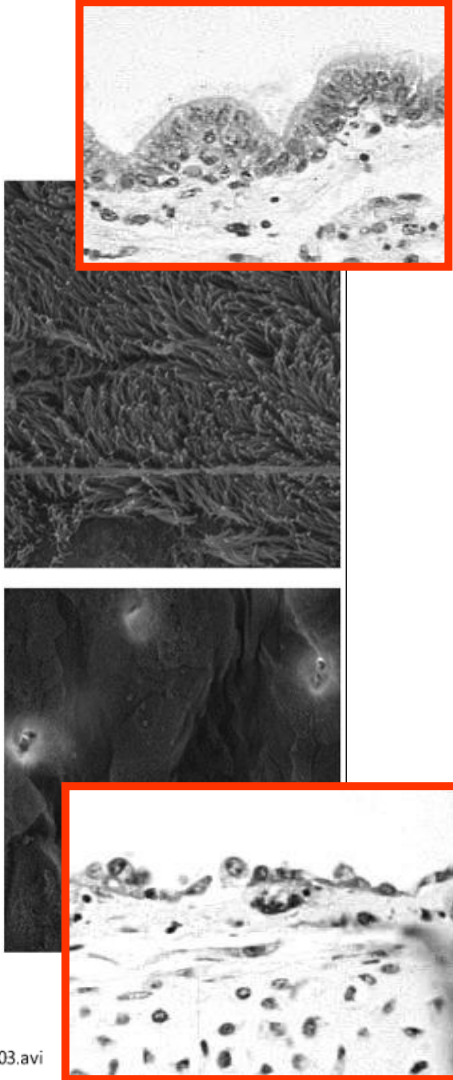
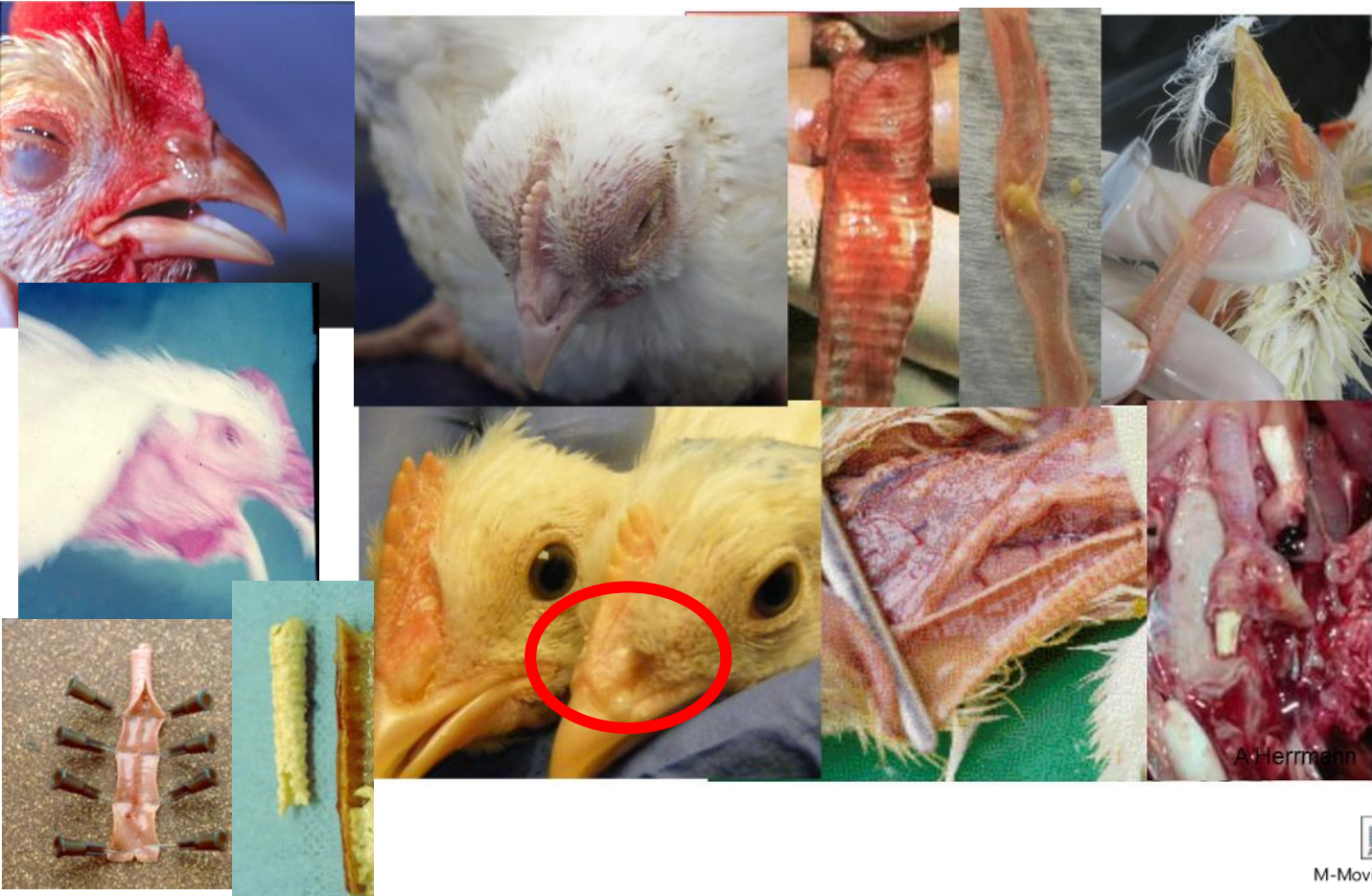
- Nasal and ocular discharges
- Wheezing, rales
- Sneezing, Coughing
- Gasping
- Head-shaking/scratching
- Mortality and morbidity, variable
- Abdominal breathing
- Wheezing
- Lameness



- Conjunctivitis
- Sinusitis
- Rhinitis
- Laryngitis
- Tracheitis
- Tracheal plug
- Pneumoniae
- Lung congestion
- Air-sacculitis
  - Mild
  - Moderate
  - Severe
- Fibrinous air-sacculitis

- Mortality
- Reduced egg production
- Reduced egg quality (external and internal)
- Reduced number eggs set
- Reduced hatchability
- No Vertical transmission ...

# Chicken respiratory viruses: missing diagnosis due to similar clinical signs and lesions



# Respiratory – shifting 'complex' to 'supercomplex'

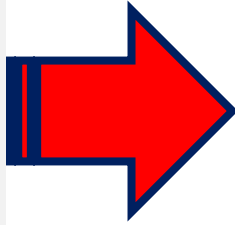
**Simple**

to

**Complex**

- *E coli*
- Mg
- NDV
- etc

respiratory  
disease

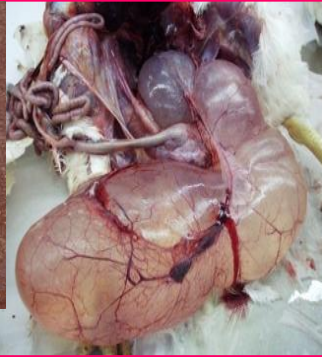


- Variant IBVs
- H9N2
- H5?
- ILT
- Ms
- ORT
- Immuno-suppression
  - Vit A, E
  - Mycotoxins
  - IBDV
  - CAV





Sugiyama, J. Vet. Med. Sci. (2006)




# Chicken respiratory viruses: inappropriate sampling techniques and over-relying on single diagnostic approaches

**Serology**

AGPT; **SNT**


**HI**



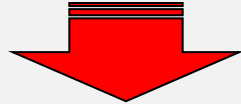

**ELISA**

1

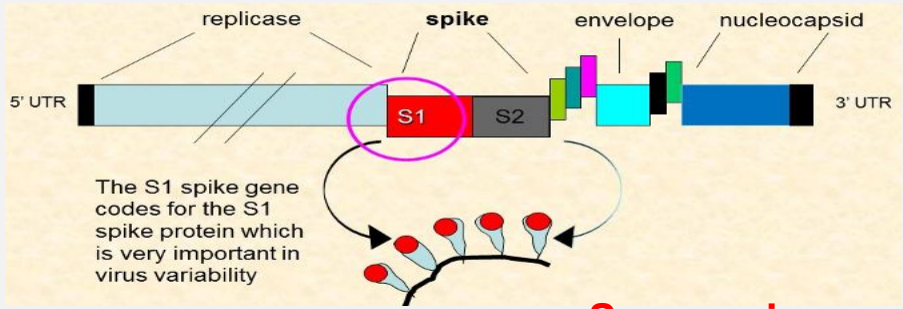
**Virus isolation**



**Antigen detection**



**Molecular methods: PCR and rt-RT-PCR**



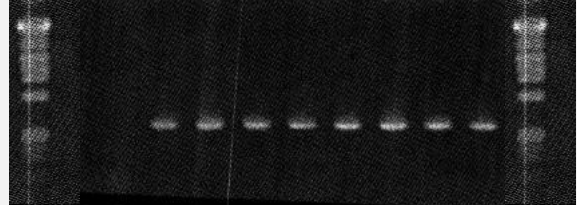
replicase spike envelope nucleocapsid

5' UTR 3' UTR

S1 S2

The S1 spike gene codes for the S1 spike protein which is very important in virus variability

**Sequencing and genotyping**



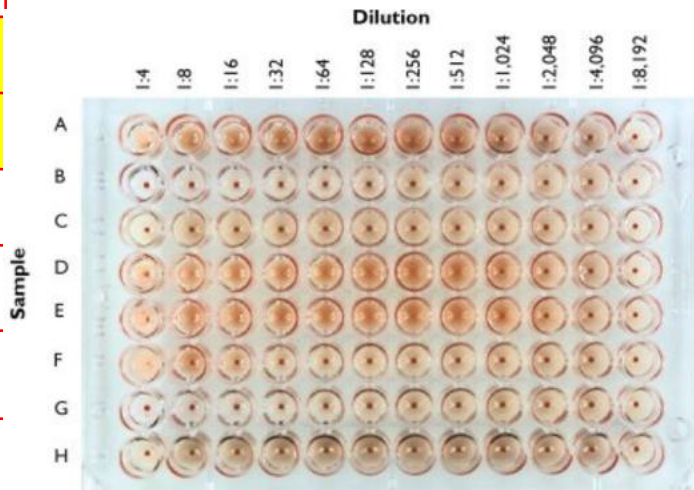
2

3

HPAI
LPAI
NDV
IBV
ILTV
aMPV
FP

# HI – Haemagglutination inhibition

- HPAI
- LPAI
- NDV
- IBV
- ILTV
- aMPV
- FP



Flocks	Mean titers (log <sub>2</sub> )			
	Qx	M-41	D-274	4/91
1	✓ 11.00	5.80	4.70	7.00
2	✓ 11.00	7.00	4.64	7.55
3	✓ 9.70	6.50	5.20	7.20
4	✓ 10.82	6.18	5.18	7.00
5	✓ 11.00	8.09	6.91	9.00
6	✓ 11.00	6.70	5.10	6.70
7	9.78	9.78	8.78	9.89
8	✓ 11.00	7.75	5.25	7.50
9	✓ 10.50	5.33	4.50	5.17
10	✓ 10.14	4.86	4.00	5.00
11	9.50	8.33	5.83	9.67
12	8.73	7.55	5.91	8.00
13	9.80	8.70	6.70	8.80
14	10.75	9.38	6.75	9.88

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Avg
M41					1	2	5	2					6.80
793/B						3	4	2	1				7.10

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Avg
M41						3	5	2					6.90
793/B					1	5	3	1					6.40

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Avg
M41						6	4						6.40
793/B					3	3	3	1					6.20

Mean IBV HI antibody titres in **IS/885-infected broiler chicks** using homologous (IS/885) and heterologous (M41, 793B) antigens.

Days post infection	Infected group			Control		
	M41	793B	IS/885	M41	793B	IS/885
0	6.2±0.6 <sup>a</sup>	5.8±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	3.5±0.2 <sup>b</sup>	6.2±0.6 <sup>a</sup>	5.8±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	3.5±0.2 <sup>b</sup>
3	5.1±0.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.0±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	2.6±0.1 <sup>a</sup>	5.1±1.1 <sup>a</sup>	5.5±0.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.1±0.1 <sup>b</sup>
6	2.4±0.6	1.3±0.3	2.1±0.2	3.0±0.3 <sup>a</sup>	3.3±0.5 <sup>b</sup>	1.7±0.3 <sup>a</sup>
9	1.6±0.8	1.4±0.2	1.8±0.2	1.6±0.8	2.3±0.6	1.1±0.2
15	3.5±0.1 <sup>a*</sup>	3.3±0.1 <sup>a*</sup>	4.0±0.2 <sup>a*</sup>	1.3±0.4	0.7±0.1	1.0±0.0
28	3.7±0.1 <sup>a*</sup>	3.5±0.1 <sup>a*</sup>	4.5±0.1 <sup>c*</sup>	0.7±0.2	0.4±0.1	0.1±0.1



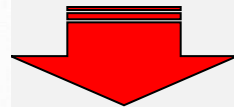
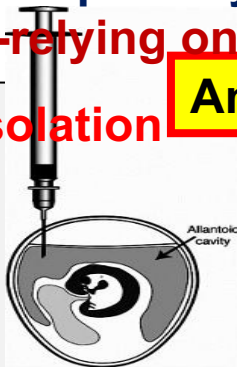
Experimental infection of IS/885/00-like infectious bronchitis virus in specific pathogen free and commercial broiler chicks

Faez Awad<sup>c,d</sup>, Rajesh Chhabra<sup>d</sup>, Anne Forrester<sup>d</sup>, Julian Chantrey<sup>d</sup>, Matthew Baylis<sup>e,f</sup>,  
Stephane Lemiere<sup>d</sup>, Hussein Aly Hussein<sup>d</sup>, Kannan Ganapathy<sup>g</sup>  

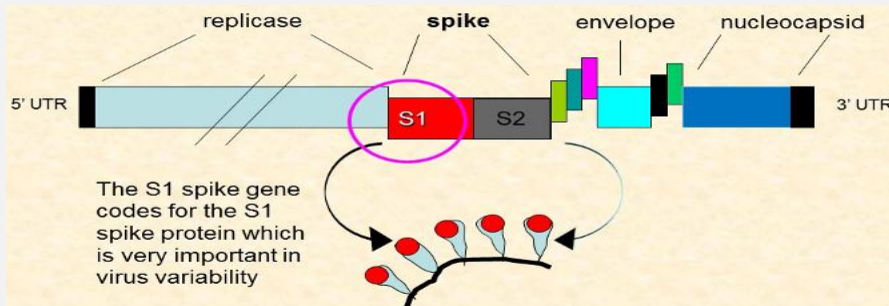
# Avian (Poultry-chicken) respiratory viruses: inappropriate sampling techniques and over-relying on single diagnostic approaches

Antigen detection

Virus isolation



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Serology

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HI



ELISA

3

H5N1

H7N9

NDV

IBV

ILTV

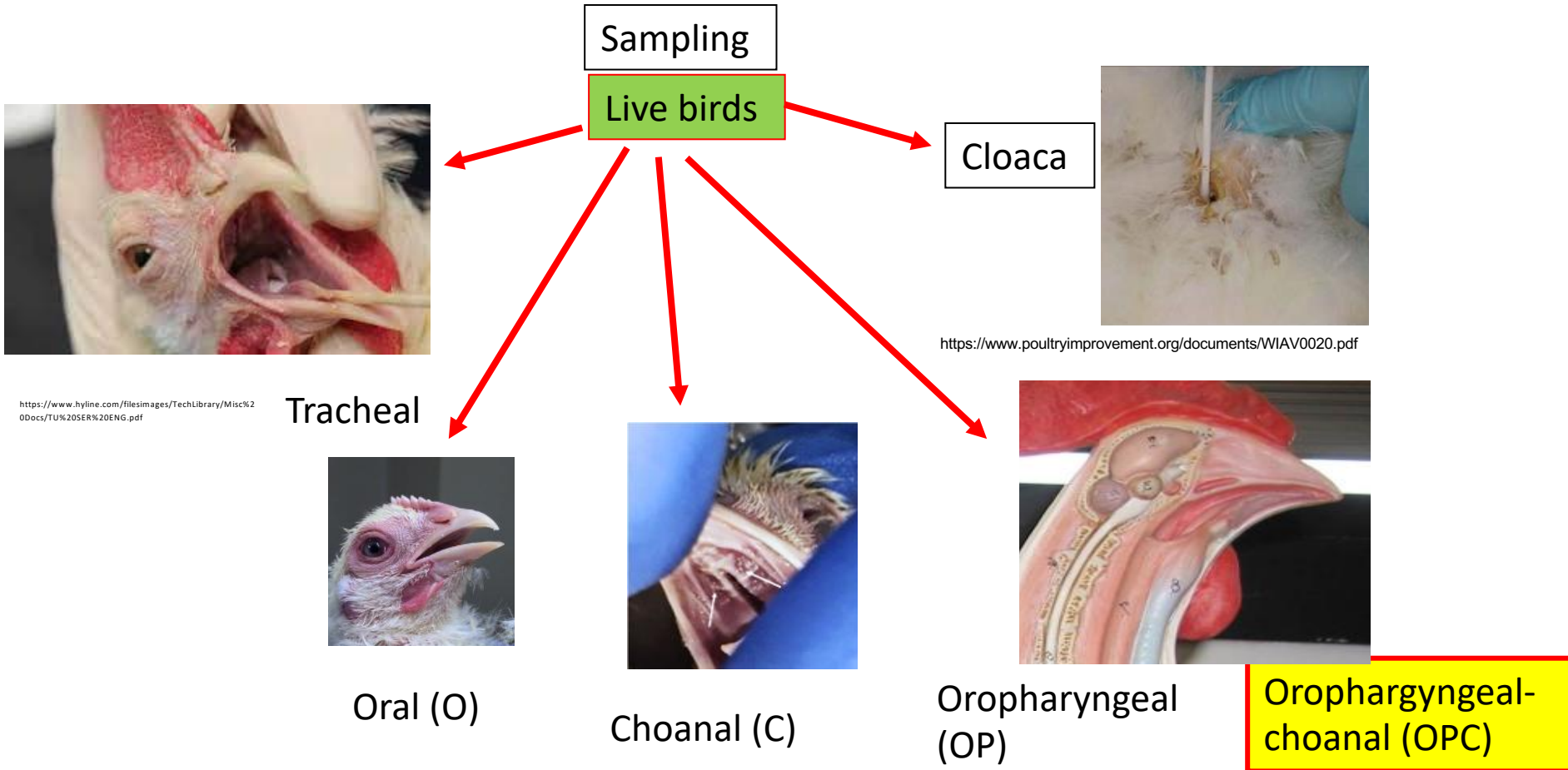
aMPV

FP

1

2

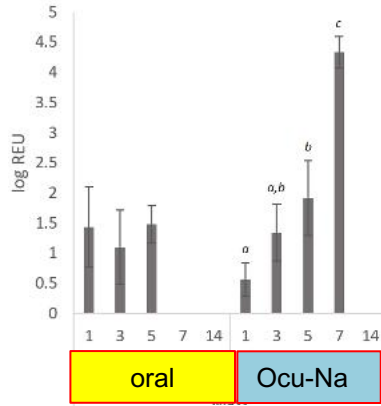
# Chicken respiratory pathogens: swabs collection from birds for detection of antigens



# OPC & Cloacal swabs in commercial layers

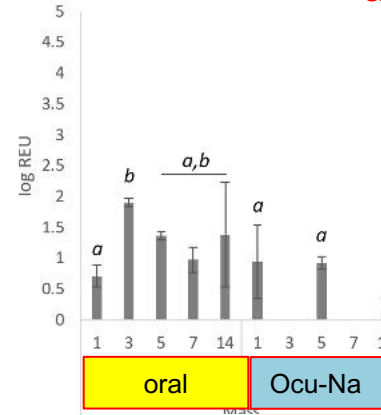


**OPC swabs**



Mass

**Cl swabs**



Mass



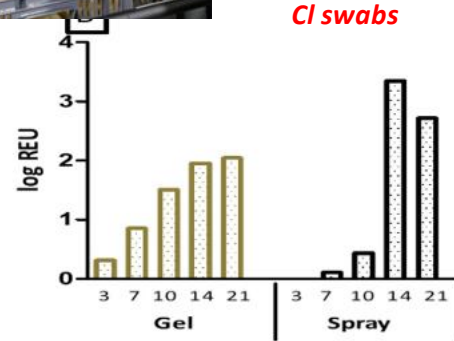
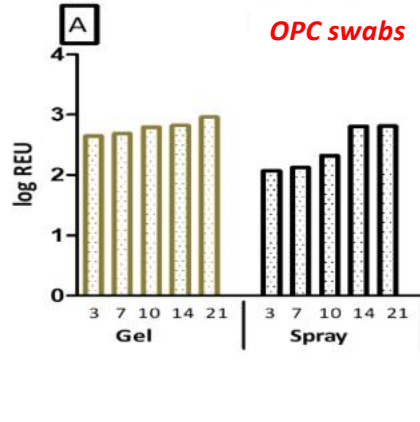
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Research article | [Open Access](#) | Published: 12 November 2021

**Route of infectious bronchitis virus vaccination determines the type and magnitude of immune responses in table egg laying hens**

[Mohammed Al-Rasheed](#), [Christopher Ball](#) & [Kannan Ganapathy](#)

# OPC & Cloacal swabs in commercial broilers



- Virus detection influenced by ...
  - Strain
  - Route
- Both OPC & Cloacal swabs to monitor vaccine-take



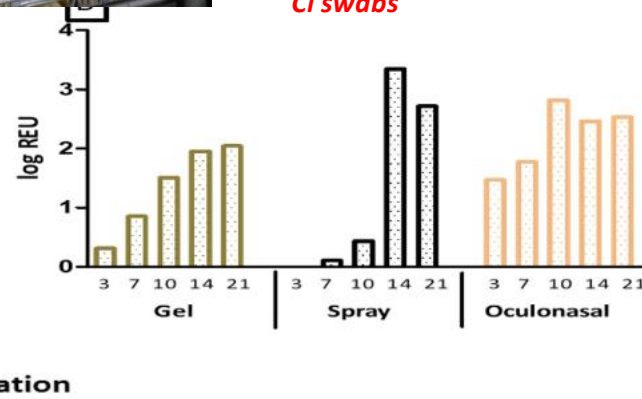
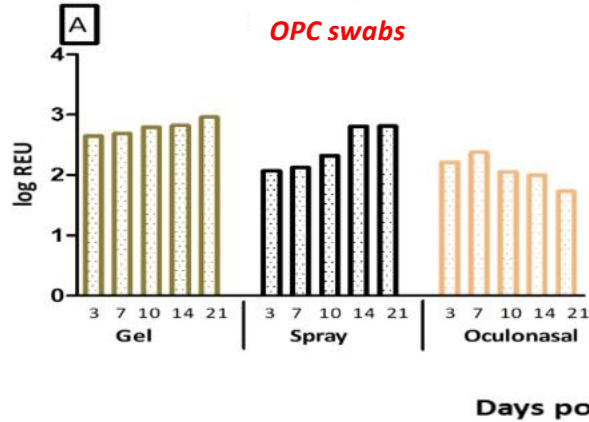
Vaccine  
Volume 41, Issue 81, 12 July 2023, Pages 4508–4524



Evaluation of protection and immunity induced by infectious bronchitis vaccines administered by oculonasal, spray or gel routes in commercial broiler chicks

Mohammed Al-Basheed<sup>1,1\*</sup>, Christopher Bell<sup>2</sup>, Sivamurthy Parthiban<sup>1,2,3</sup>,  
Kannan Ganapathy<sup>2</sup>

# OPC & Cloacal swabs in commercial broilers



- Virus detection influenced by ...
  - Type of birds
  - Strain of virus
  - Route of inoculation
- **Both OPC & Cloacal swabs to monitor vaccine-take**



Vaccine  
Volume 41, Issue 51, 12 July 2023, Pages 4508-4524



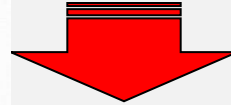
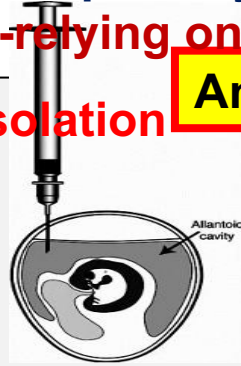
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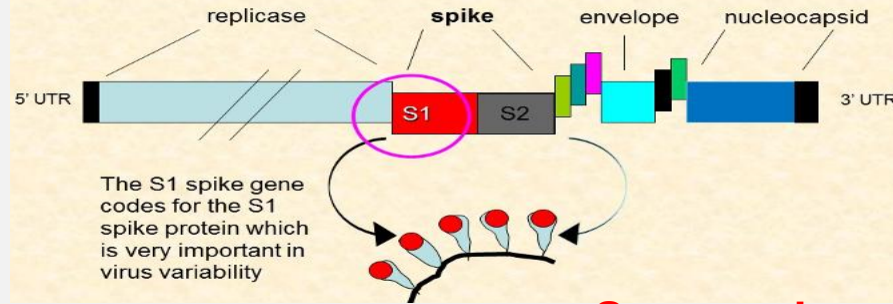
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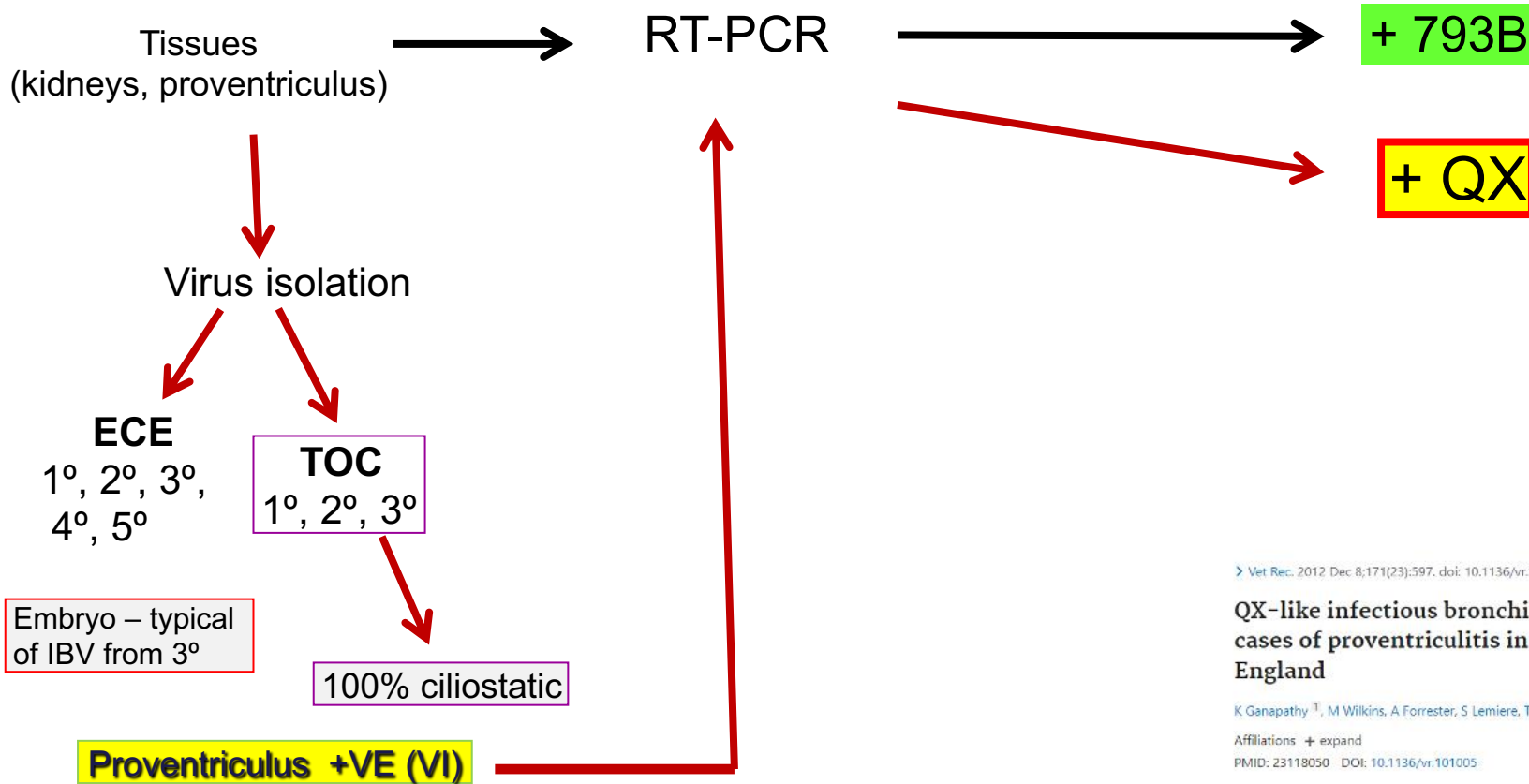
aMPV

FP

1

2

# Conventional & Molecular detection & differentiation of pathogens – RT-PCR vs VI



> [Vet Rec. 2012 Dec 8;171\(23\):597. doi: 10.1136/vr.101005. Epub 2012 Nov 1.](#)

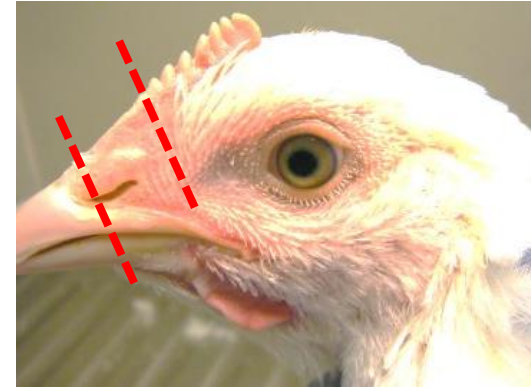
**QX-like infectious bronchitis virus isolated from cases of proventriculitis in commercial broilers in England**

K Ganapathy <sup>1</sup>, M Wilkins, A Forrester, S Lemiere, T Cserep, P McMullin, R C Jones

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 23118050 DOI: 10.1136/vr.101005

**A comparison on the detection of aMPV by RT-PCR on samples collected on FTA cards either as tissue impression smear or inoculated with tissue supernatant**



Tissue	Groups infected with aMPV subtype A or B	Methods of tissue sampling onto FTA card	Day post-infection					
			1	3	5	7	9	14
Turbinate	A	Impression <sup>a</sup>	-	+	+	+	-	-
		Supernatant <sup>b</sup>	+	+	+	-	-	-
	B	Impression <sup>a</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+
		Supernatant <sup>b</sup>	+	+	-	+	+	+
Trachea	A	Impression <sup>a</sup>	-	-	+	+	-	-
		Supernatant <sup>b</sup>	-	+	+	-	-	-
	B	Impression <sup>a</sup>	-	-	+	-	-	-
		Supernatant <sup>b</sup>	+	+	+	-	-	+
Lung	A	Impression <sup>a</sup>	-	+	+	-	-	-
		Supernatant <sup>b</sup>	-	-	+	-	-	-
	B	Impression <sup>a</sup>	-	-	+	+	+	-
		Supernatant <sup>b</sup>	+	-	+	+	-	-

<sup>a</sup>: imprint was made by gently pressing the tissue against providing matrix area of the FAT card; <sup>b</sup>: 100 µl of the supernatants of turbinate, trachea and lung were spotted directly onto FTA card.

Preferred tissues & timing for detection of pathogens, eg. aMPV

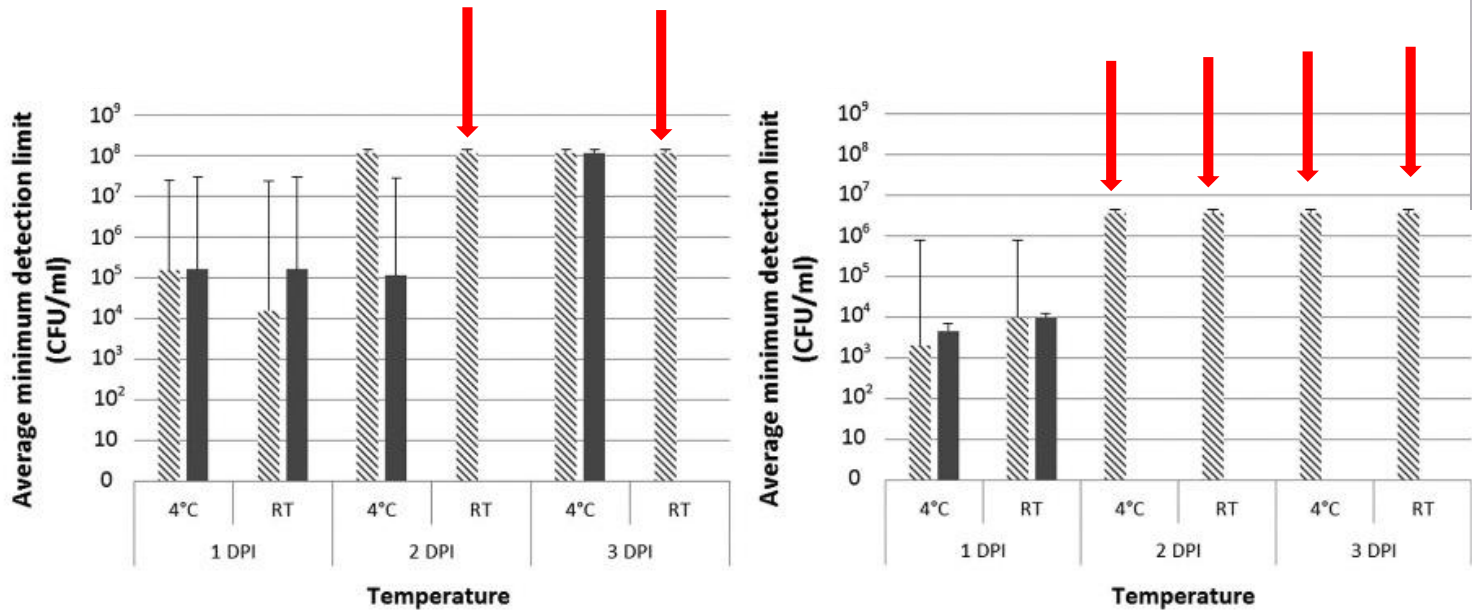
ORIGINAL ARTICLES

**Evaluation of Flinders Technology Associates cards for storage and molecular detection of avian metapneumoviruses**

Fozer Awad, Matthew Boyliss, Richard C. Jones & Kannan Ganapathy

Pages 125-129 | Received 17 Jun 2013, Accepted 11 Dec 2013, Published online 12 Feb 2014

# Sampling for Mg/Ms – best to use plastic stick swabs



▨ Plastic  
■ Wooden



## Influences of swab types and storage temperatures on isolation and molecular detection of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* and *Mycoplasma synoviae*

Christopher Ball<sup>a</sup>, Viviana Felice<sup>b</sup>, Yichao Ding<sup>c</sup>, Anne Forrester<sup>a</sup>, Elena Catelli<sup>b</sup> and Kannan Ganapathy<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool, Neston, UK; <sup>b</sup>Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences, University of Bologna, Ozzano dell'Emilia (BO), Italy; <sup>c</sup>College of Animal Science, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, People's Republic of China

# Conclusions

- **Clinical judgement vs laboratory reports.**
- **Cross-check laboratory results.**
- **Use a combination of antibody and antigen detection methods.**
- **Ensure correct sampling methods.**
- **Appropriate interpretation of laboratory results.**





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**Sirorat Munyahongse, PhD**  
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**Congriev Kumar Kabiraj, PhD**  
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**Thomas Lewis, PhD**  
**Sam Hughes, PhD**

**Joseph Hinds, BBSRC Postdoc**  
**Emily Herschell-Kelly, BBSRC Technician**



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