

An Overview On: Lumpy Skin Disease Virus

Oswal Rajesh J¹, Patil Vishal S², Bhosale Pranali B³

^{1,2,3}Genba Sopanrao Moze College of Pharmacy, Wagholi, Pune-412207

Abstract- Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a viral trans boundary disease endemic throughout Africa and of high economic importance that affects cattle and domestic waterbuffaloes. Since 2012, the disease has spread rapidly and widely throughout the Middle Eastern and Balkan regions, southern Caucasus and parts of the Russian Federation. Before vaccination campaigns took their full effect, the disease continued spreading from region to region, mainly showing seasonal patterns despite implementing control and eradication measures. The disease is capable of appearing several hundred kilometers away from initial (focal) outbreak sites within a short time period. These incursions have triggered a long-awaited renewed scientific interest in LSD resulting in the initiation of novel research into broad aspects of the disease, including epidemiology, modes of transmission and associated risk factors. Long-distance dispersal of LSDV seems to occur via the movement of infected animals, but distinct seasonal patterns indicate that arthropod-borne transmission is most likely responsible for the swift and aggressive short-distance spread of the disease. Elucidating the mechanisms of transmission of LSDV will enable the development of more targeted and effective actions for containment and eradication of the virus. The mode of vector-borne transmission of the disease is most likely mechanical, but there is no clear-cut evidence to confirm or disprove this assumption.

Keywords - Lumpy virus, LSDV, transmission, skin

INTRODUCTION

Capri pox virus (CaPVs) is one of the eight genera within the Chordopoxvirinae subfamily of the Poxviridae and is comprised of Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV), Sheep Pox Virus (SPPV), and Goat Pox Virus (GTPV). These viruses are responsible for most economically significant diseases of domestic ruminants in Africa and Asia [1]. CaPV infections have specific geographic distributions [2,3]. SPPV and GTPV is endemic in most African countries, the Middle East, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent. In contrast, LSDV occurs largely in southern, central,

eastern and western Africa [4-7]; its occurrence in north Sahara Desert and outside the African continent was confirmed for the first time in Egypt and Israel between 1988 and 1989, and was reported again in 2006, 2011 and 2014 in Egypt [8-10]. LSD occurrences have also been reported in the Middle Eastern, European and west Asian regions [11-13]. In 2015 and 2016 the disease spread to south-east Europe, the Balkans and the Caucasus [14]. Lumpy skin disease is caused by lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV) for which Neethling strain is the prototype.



The principal method of transmission is mechanical by arthropod vectors [15,16]. Temporally LSD is shown to be aggregated during the warm and humid months of the year Gari et al. which is directly associated with vector abundance [17]. This author also revealed the role of husbandry practices such as of animals at communal grazing and watering points in the transmission of LSDV. LSDV has a limited host range and does not complete its replication cycle in non-ruminant hosts [18]. Besides, LSD has not been reported in sheep and goats even when kept in a close contact with infected cattle although typical skin lesions, without systemic disease, have been produced experimentally in sheep, goats, giraffes, impalas, and Grant's gazelles [2]. Natural cases of lumpy skin disease were recorded in waterbuffalo (*Bubalis bubalis*) during an outbreak in Egypt in 1988, but morbidity was much lower than for cattle (1.6% vs. 30.8%) [16,19,20]. Among cattle *Bos taurus* is more susceptible to clinical disease than *Bos indicus*; the

Asian buffalo has also been reported to be susceptible [14,21]. Cattle breeds of both sexes and all ages are susceptible to LSDV, but there is some evidence to support that young animals may be more susceptible to the severe form of the disease [22,23]. LSD symptoms in cattle are mild to severe; characterized by fever, multiple skin nodules covering the neck, back, perineum, tail, limbs and genital organs, the mucous membranes; the lesion may also involve subcutaneous tissues and sometimes musculature and internal organs. Affected animals also exhibit lameness, emaciation and cessation of milk production. Edema of limbs and brisket, and lymphadenitis are highly prominent and sometimes affected animals may die. In addition, pneumonia is a common sequel in animals with lesions in the mouth and respiratory tract [11,24].



Morbidity and mortality of LSD can vary considerably depending on the breed of cattle, the immunological status of the population, insect vectors involved in the transmission and isolates of the virus. In endemic areas morbidity is usually around 10% and mortality ranges between 1% and 3% [2,5]. In addition the incidence of LSD in Holstein Friesian and crossbred cattle was found to be significantly higher than in local zebu [25]. Recently, Abera and Elhaig showed that the prevalence of LSD is higher in adult cattle but, they observed no statistically significant association between the age groups in which they are equally exposed to risk [10,26]. Furthermore, LSD results in overwhelming economic losses due to severe reduction in milk yield, reduced hide quality, chronic debility, weight loss, infertility, abortion and death. It is also considered as a notifiable disease, and in endemic countries, it results in serious restrictions to international trade [2,7,27]. The financial cost of clinical LSD has been computed by Gari et al. in Ethiopia and, the average financial cost in infected

herds was estimated to be 6.43 USD per head for local zebu and 58 USD per head for Holstein Friesian or crossbred cattle [25]. Therefore, this review is aimed to highlight the biology of LSDV, mechanism of spread, clinical and pathological features of lumpy skin disease in cattle.

CLINICAL HISTORY AND SAMPLE COLLECTION

In April 2009, a severe disease of cattle resembling LSD was reported from Nezwa (Interior), Alqabel (Eastern), Sohar, Saham (Batinah) and Burimi regions. The outbreaks involved seven herds (64 North Oman, Jersey and cross-bred cattle) and one herd (3,300 Holstein–Friesian dairy cows) at Nezwa and Sohar, respectively. Samples were collected from 22 and 38 cows from Nezwa and Sohar, respectively. Skin biopsies were collected for virus isolation, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), negative staining for transmission electron microscopy and histopathology. Serum was collected for serum neutralization testing (Beard et al. 2010) and necropsies were performed on two dead Holstein–Friesian animals. Biopsies and tissues collected at necropsy were fixed in 10 % buffered formalin, processed, sectioned and stained with either haematoxylin and eosin or phloxine–tartrazine stain (Bancroft and Gamble 2008).

WHAT IS LUMPY SKIN DISEASE?
Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is an emerging threat to livestock worldwide.

Caused by
lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV), a virus from the family Poxviridae, genus Capripoxvirus. Sheep pox virus and goat pox virus are the two other virus species in this genus.

The disease causes fever, nodules on the skin, along with a reduced milk yield, and can also lead to death, especially in animals that have not previously been exposed to the virus.

SAMPLE PREPARATION FOR ELECTRON MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Small tissue sections were excised from visible lesions on the affected tissue and homogenised using a mortar

and pestle in sterile double-distilled water (ddH₂O). The suspension was centrifuged at low speed (1,000 × g) for 5 min to remove coarse debris. The supernatant was further centrifuged at 10,000 × g for 20 min and the supernatant fraction discarded. The pellet was gently washed twice with ddH₂O and suspended in phosphotungstic acid (pH 6.4). This suspension was then applied dropwise to a Formvar-coated copper grid, allowed to dry and viewed at 80 kV using a Jeol JEM-1200 transmission electron microscope (Japan).



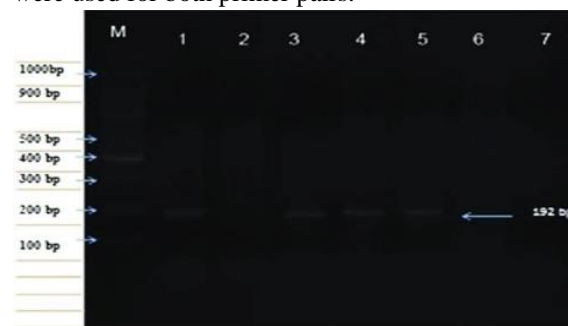
SAMPLE PREPARATION FOR POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION ANALYSIS

A thin tissue section removed from each sample using sterile technique was chopped into 5 mm³ cubes and transferred to a separate mortar. Sterile phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) (2 ml) was added and the pieces were ground with a pestle in carborundum powder. The mixtures were then transferred to Eppendorf tubes and allowed to stand for 3 min to precipitate large detritus. The supernatants were transferred to new Eppendorf tubes and sonicated using a Sonorex TK52 water bath sonicator (Bandelin, Germany) at 35 kHz for 10 min. The mixtures were subsequently vortexed and centrifuged at 2,000 rpm (358 × g) for 2 min in an Avanti30 Beckman benchtop centrifuge (Beckman, USA). The supernatants were transferred to new Eppendorf tubes and centrifuged at 16,000 rpm (22,897 × g) for 15 min to pellet the viral particles. The supernatants were discarded, and the virus-containing pellets resuspended in 200 µl PBS for DNA extraction using a MagNAPure LC Total Nucleic Acid Isolation Kit (Roche, Germany) on a MagNA Pure LC Instrument (Roche, Germany) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

PCR CONDITIONS

The primers were designed from sequence data derived from the South African vaccine strain and

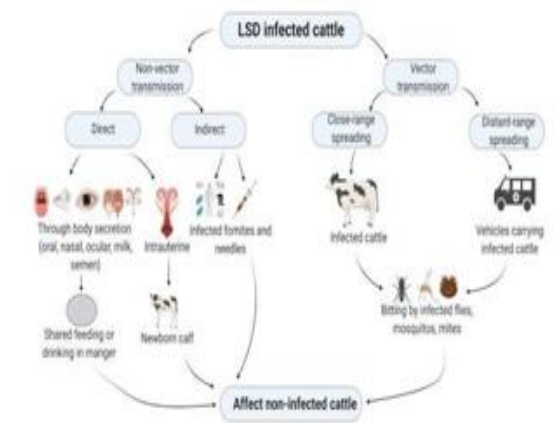
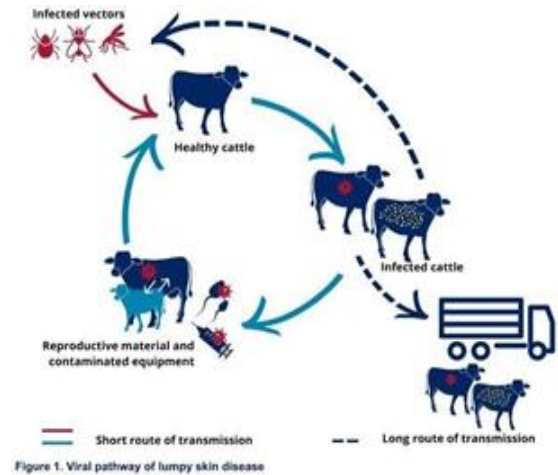
Warm baths field isolate of LSDV (Genbank accession numbers AF409138 and AF409137, respectively) (Kara et al. 2003). Primer pair 1, consisting of primer DW-TK (5'- GCC GAT AAC ATA TAT AGA CCC -3') and primer OP49 (5'- GTG CTA TCT AGT GCA GCT AT -3'), is used to amplify a 434-bp LSDV genomic fragment between positions 56698–57132, and primer pair 2, consisting of primer L132F (5'- CAC TTC CCT TTT AAG C -3') and primer L132R (5'- CAT TCT ACA ATC TCC ATG CG -3'), amplifies a 492-bp fragment between genomic positions 119801–120292. The PCRs were performed using an Eppendorf Master Cycler® gradient thermo cycler (Merck, Germany) and 25 µl reaction volumes consisting of 2.5 µl 10× PCR buffer (containing 20 mM MgCl₂) (Takara Biomedical, Japan), 2 µl 2.5 mM dNTPs (Takara Biomedical, Japan), 0.25 U Taq DNA polymerase (TaKaRa Ex Taq™, Takara Biomedical, Japan), 20 nmoles of each primer (Gibco-Brl, Scotland), template DNA (~0.1 ng) and sterile ddH₂O. Template DNA was denatured initially for 90 s at 95 °C, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation (45 s at 95 °C), primer annealing (45 s at 56 °C) and strand extension (60 s at 72 °C), ending with a final strand extension step for 7 min at 72 °C. These conditions were used for both primer pairs.



TRANSMISSION

In most of Sub-Saharan Africa, LSD has been seen to occur after seasonal rains, when the number of certain arthropod species increases [21]. The study that looked at the risk variables involved with the development of LSD in Ethiopia discovered that a warm and humid agro-climate, which supports an abundance of vector population, was linked to a higher incidence of LSD [22]. LSDV can be mechanically transmitted by a number of hematophagous arthropod vectors, according to evidence from several sources. The disease is high, with 50- 60% attack rates where

mosquitopopulations are abundant and low, 5-15% morbidity in arid areas where there are fewer potential mechanical vectors [2,23]. Mechanical transmission of some poxvirus species by insect vectors such as *Stomoxys calcitrans* may occur due to high viral load in skin lesions [24]. Invasive blood-feeding arthropods, such as mosquitoes and sand flies, are suspected to be associated with LSD outbreaks characterized by generalized lesions [25]. *Stomoxys calcitrans* and *Biomphalaria* were caught after being fed on sick cows, and the LSD virus was isolated from them [26]. Chihota et al found that *Aedes aegypti* female mosquitoes can mechanically transmit LSDV from infected cattle to susceptible cattle [27]. Such a vector feeding regularly and changing hosts between feedings is likely to transmit LSDV mechanically [26]. Chihota et al identified the LSDV genome in mosquitoes (*Anopheles stephensi* and *Culex quinquefasciatus*) and biting midges (*Culicoides nubeculosus*) feeding on LSD-positive animals but did not observe LSDV transmission by these insects.



PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF LUMPY SKIN DISEASES IN CATTLE

Attenuated virus vaccine may help control spread the spread of lumpy skin disease in recent years beyond its ancestral home of Africa is alarming. Quarantine restriction have proved to be of limited use. Vaccination with attenuated virus offers the most promising method of control and was effective in halting the spread of the disease in the Balkans

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

Prevention	Treatment
Attenuated virus vaccines help control spread	Administration of antibiotics to control secondary infection & good nursing care

Administration of antibiotics to control secondary infection and good nursing care are recommended, but the large number of affected animals within a herd may be a problem. Prozesky L, Barnard B J. A study of the treatment of lumpy skin disease in cattle. Overall, the majority of suspected infected cattle recovered, although it is unclear which, if any, treatment regimens contributed to recovery. All affected farms were instructed to restrict animal movement off the farm for 30 days from the time the last case was identified. Ectoparasiticides were applied to healthy ruminants on the infected farms and surrounding farms where outbreaks occurred. One of three locally available ectoparasiticides was used to spray animals, including Ektosan (Biovafarma Ltd, Ukraine), Blotic 7% Emulsion (Topkim, Turkey) or Butox (MSD Animal Health, India). Dilutions were made according to manufacturer's recommendations and farmers were asked to apply the ectoparasiticide twice weekly. After the outbreak, two million doses of live sheep and goat pox vaccine (Poxvac, Vetal Company, Turkey) were purchased. In 2015, a targeted 5-year vaccination campaign was initiated to control the spread of this disease in Azerbaijan. A total of 1.6 million cattle in the affected regions, neighboring regions, and regions on the southern Azerbaijan border were vaccinated in 2015 with some vaccine held in reserve in the event of additional

outbreaks. Cattle 3 months of age and over were included in the campaign with a focus on animals that migrate to summer pastures. For 2016–2019, approximately 15 million cattle are planned to be vaccinated throughout the country annually with 9 million cattle in high-risk areas being vaccinated twice a year

CONCLUSION

Lumpy skin disease is one of the most economically significant transboundary, viral diseases of domestic cattle. It is economically significant in animals because of chronic debility, decreased milk production and weight, damaged skins, abortion, and mortality [2]. LSD is currently present in the majority of African and Middle Eastern countries. LSD is often diagnosed based on specific clinical signs and differential diagnoses. Milder and subclinical forms, on the other hand, require quick and accurate laboratory testing to prove the diagnosis [31]. The disease's economic impact was mostly due to its high morbidity rate rather than its mortality rate [38]. Based upon the above conclusion, the following recommendations are forwarded:

1. The disease's global expansion requires special attention
2. Action plans for effective control and prevention should be developed to reduce the disease's economic losses.
3. If LSD is introduced into a disease-free country, rapid identification and culling of infected herds, as well as ring vaccination, should be undertaken.
4. Additional research into control strategies is required.

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