Sapovirus is a member of the family *Caliciviridae,* is a causative agent of acute gastroenteritis. The Sapovirus genome is linear, positive-sense, single-strand RNA, of almost 7,5kb that is polyadenylated at the 3' terminus. SaV is divided in at least five genogroups, whereas GIII is a porcine one. In Brazil it is known that the most causative gastroenteritis viruses are Rotavirus and Norovirus, whereas the occurrence of sapovirus is sporadic. In the Federal District, a Sapovirus was found recently by RT-PCR targeting partial capsid protein gene from stool of a 2-year old child with severe diarrhea, previous analised by ELISA Rotavirus test in which the results were negative. In order to identify the genotype of this sapovirus isolate, the amplified DNA fragment by RT-PCR was projected to direct-sequencing using specific primers to sapovirus at Sequence Platform of Catholic University of Brasília. The DF sapovirus isolate was identified as genotype 2 of Genogroup I. The phylogenetic analysis was done using this genomic region.

338 - PREVALENCE OF EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA IN ONE-YEAR-OLD FOALS FROM SEROPOSITIVE HERDS IN SOUTHERN PANTANAL, BRAZIL

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The most significant economic activity in Pantanal is beef cattle raising. To support this activity there is an estimated population of 120,000 equines, which are of critical importance for cattle management in such extensive conditions of production. In the 1990's, mean prevalence of equine infectious anemia (EIA) by the agar gel immunodifusion test (AGID) was estimated to be 34.1% in working horses from cattle ranches of Pantanal. From epidemiological studies carried out in the region, the Embrapa Pantanal developed a "Program for prevention and control of equine infectious anemia in the Pantanal Sul-Matogrossense", which was based mainly on serologic diagnostic and segregation of negative and positive herds. Also, to reduce risks of foal infection it was recommended the early weaning of six-month-old foals. In the traditional management, the foal stays with the mare until natural weaning, which usually occurs after ten months. The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence of AIE in one-year-old foals traditionally managed, just before separation from their dams. The diagnostic test used was an indirect enzyme linked immunosorbent assay with a recombinant glycoprotein of the viral surface (ELISA rgp90). Equines from two ranches in Southern Pantanal were sampled. In the first ranch serum samples were collected from 42 mares and 22 foals and, in the second ranch, from 49 mares and 33 foals. All the foals were from 2007 offspring, and sampling was done at least one year later. Both herds were extensively raised and clinical signs of illnesses were not noticed during sampling. Seropositivity found at each ranch was 52.38% (n = 22) and 65.31% (n = 32) in mares and 4.55% (n = 1) and 6.06% (n = 2) in foals, respectively. At both ranches the test of one mare (2.38% and 2.04%, respectively) remained in the undetermined range. Considering all mares (n = 91) and foals (n = 55) tested, the estimated prevalence rates were 59.34% and 5.45%, respectively. Since no birth records were available, it is not known if seropositive foals were born from seropositive dams. The results suggest that foals from seropositive dams were born uninfected and, despite close and permanent contact with infected mares under extensive breeding conditions, just a small percentage of them became positive until the next offspring season.
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339 - DETECTION OF PERSISTENCE OF ROCIO VIRUS INFECTION IN GOLDEN HAMSTERS (*MESOCRICETUS AURATUS*)

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Rocio virus (ROCV) is an encephalitic flavivirus which was firstly detected in 1975, during an epidemic of encephalitis in the Vale do Ribeira region, in the southeast coast of São Paulo state. In a period of seven years ROCV was responsible for an epidemic in human beings with over a thousand known cases of encephalitis, with at least a hundred deaths and approximately two hundred of serious central nervous system sequels. Several studies have suggested many flaviviruses as associated as the occurrence of persistent infection which should reduce the host anti-viral immune response which would result in a disorder of the host homeostasis, establishing infection without a complete destruction of infected cells, resulting in persistence of the viral infection. Objective: The purpose of this study was to investigate in vivo the possible occurrence of ROCV persistent infection using golden hamsters (*Mesocricetus auratus*) as experimental model, through the technique of quantitative Real Time RT-PCR (*q*RT-PCR). Hamsters were infected via intra-peritoneal (i.p.) with 0,1mL of ROCV suspension. After infection, hamsters were anesthetized, bled and sacrificed. Fragments of liver, brain and aliquots of blood were obtained each 24hs for seven days and at the interval of 15 days during three months (90 days) post-infection (p.i.). Viral quantification was