医薬品

医薬部外品 研究報告 調査報告書

| | | | | 化粧 | . aa | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|-------------|--------------------|---|----------------|------------------|---|
| 截. | 別番号·報告回数 | | 回 | 年 | 報告日月 | 日 | 第一報入手日 2007 年 1 月 12 日 | | 護品等の区分 核当なし | 総合機構処理欄 |
| , | 一般的名称 | | | 研究報報 | 告の公3 | 表状況 | FDA proposes barring cert cattle material from medi products as BSE Safeguard FDA News, 11 January 2007 | cal | 公表国 米国 | |
| 研究報告の概要 | 目すのとしたを禁いいるもののののののののののののののののののののののののののののののでである。 いっぱい はい | の医薬品(薬剤、ワクチンした。この新しい規制ではれる: このウシの脳、頭蓋、服及で状態を問わず、全てのウシ ダウナー」牛の全部位 ・受けていないウシ、及び合う禁止部位による汚染を防くの禁止部位由来の獣脂で、0 | 及び罹患が で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 | 機器)ない 及びいないない がいなな不 で TDAは EDAは EDAは EDAは EDA | びてののを全不をいる。 | | | ウシ由来僚 ている部位 | (料の使用を制限なすべてと、以下 | 使用上の注意記載状況・ その他参考事項等 BYL-2007-0268 www. fda. gov/bbs/topics/N EWS/2007/NEW01545. html |
| | 報告企業の意見 | | | | | | 今後の対応 | | | |
| え BS | ば, 反芻動物由来 E 報告件数がわず | スクを低減するために FDA 飼料の使用禁止) を取って かであることから, 事実上 置は有効であると考えられ | いる。これ のリスクに | 1までの | 現時点 | 点で新たな | 安全対策上の措置を講じる必 | 要はないと | 考える。 | |





FDA Home Page | Search FDA Site | FDA A-Z Index | Contact FDA

FDA News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE P07-04 January 11, 2007 Media Inquiries: Karen Riley, 301-827-6242 Consumer Inquiries: 888-INFO-FDA

FDA Proposes Barring Certain Cattle Material From Medical Products As BSE Safeguard

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is proposing to limit the materials used in some medical products in order to keep them free of the agent thought to cause mad cow disease, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE.

This is the latest in a series of BSE safeguards that would bar material that has been found to harbor the highest concentrations of this fatal agent in infected cattle. These materials would be prohibited from use as ingredients in medical products or elements of product manufacturing.

The proposed rule would cover drugs (prescription, over-the-counter, and homeopathic), biologics (such as vaccines) and medical devices intended for use in humans as well as drugs intended for use in ruminant animals like cattle and sheep. Cattle can get mad cow disease, while sheep can get a similar disease known as scrapie.

"These measures build on a series of barriers FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have erected to further protect humans from exposure to the fatal agent linked to BSE," said Andrew von Eschenbach, M.D., Commissioner Food and Drugs. "This proposed rule adds one more safeguard that will reduce the risk of transmission even further."

The cattle materials prohibited in the proposed rule are those that pose the highest risk of containing infectious material and include:

- . the brain, skull, eyes and spinal cords from cattle 30 months and older;
- . the tonsils and a portion of the small intestines from all cattle regardless of their age or health;
- · any material from "downer" cattle-those that cannot walk;
- any material from cattle not inspected and passed for human consumption;
- fetal calf serum if appropriate procedures have not been followed to prevent its contamination with materials prohibited by this proposed rule;
- tallow that contains more than 0.15 percent insoluble impurities if the tallow is derived from materials
 prohibited by this proposed rule and;
- · mechanically separated beef.

To ensure that companies comply with these prohibitions, FDA proposes to require that records be kept to demonstrate that any cattle material used as an ingredient in these medical products or as part of their manufacturing process meet the rule's requirements.

Since 1996, strong evidence has accumulated for a causal relationship between ongoing outbreaks of mad cow disease in Europe and a disease in humans called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob (vCJD) disease. Both disorders, which are thought to be caused by an unconventional transmissible agent, are invariably fatal brain diseases with incubation periods typically measured in years. Transmission of the BSE agent to humans, leading to vCJD, is believed to occur via ingestion of cattle products contaminated with the BSE agent; however the specific products associated with this transmission are unknown.

About 200 cases of vCJD have been identified worldwide, including three cases in the U.S. However, there is no evidence that those three patients contracted the BSE agent in the U.S.

FDA and USDA's efforts to help protect the public from vCJD have included several other significant steps such as the FDA's 1997 ruminant feed regulation, which forbids the use of certain mammalian-origin proteins in ruminant feed. Also, a 2005 interim final rule bans the use of certain high-risk cattle material in food, dietary supplements and cosmetics.

####

RSS Feed for FDA News Releases [what's this?]

Get free weekly updates about FDA press releases, recalls, speeches, testimony and more.

Media Contacts | FDA News Page

FDA Home Page | Search FDA Site | FDA A-Z Index | Contact FDA | Privacy | Accessibility

FDA Website Management Staff

医薬品

医薬部外品 研究報告 調査報告書

化粧品

| , | | | | 1七杜 | ÄΩ | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---------------------------|
| dist. | 哉別番号・報告回数 | | 回 | 年 | 報告日 月 | B | 第一報入手日 2006 年 11 月 1 日 | | 薬品等の区分 核当なし | 総合機構処理欄 |
| | 一般的名称 | | | | | | Isolation from cattle of a prion 公表国 strain distinct from that causing | | | |
| | 販売名 (企業名) | | | 研究報告 | ₹の公園 | 長状況 | bovine spongiform encepha Béringue, V. et al., PLoS Pathog., 2, 956-963 | - • • • • | フランス | |
| | PrP パワ報告の概要 PrP パロのでは とクタン(は関係の) に はを及ししので は な う に は と り に に の に に を り に に を り に に を り に を り に を り に を り た り た り た り た り た も り た し し し し し し し し し し し し し し し し し し | 、異型 PrP (PrPres) プリオンスジェニックマウス (Tg) マツジ (tgOv) PrP のいずれかる Bov Tg マウスは 400 日の間まで減少した。ウシ海綿はでした。ウンカーの間は異なる病変が判明した。は異なる病変が判明した。はこれなる病変のでは、またしている。 報告企業の意見 E に関与するプリオンは当れた。 またヒトへの感染はプリスとは、ウシ由来になれば、ウシ由来になれば、ウシ由来になれば、ウシ由来になれば、ウシーをは、ウン・カー・ファー・ファー・ファー・ファー・ファー・ファー・ファー・ファー・ファー・ファ | タウ発では、では、ではなり、これでは、 BSでは、 BSであるは、 とく現 ら種含を のを を のを を のを を のを の の の の の の の の の の | 田内るVまな脳型時うか、 てにす型接よgたレ切型点結の未 いよると種うマはベ片プで論動知 たっ血につりにウ異ルのオはに物の | ば北しス型まか、Hなにま 弊種認いれ較たはクで析感型っおま 社々さいののれ | がる本のイ積よどり。てありないな系のでは、アンスでは、アンスでは、アンスがある。 かんしょう かんしょく かんしょう かんしん かんしょく かんしゃ かんしょく かんしょく かんしょく かんしょく かんしん かんしん かんしん かんしん かんしん かんしん かんしん かんし | の大規模な検査が行われた結果なれた。フランスの畜牛から分より、H型PrPresの伝播性を評すマウスPrPは発現していない。次別ト・ヤコブ病(vCJD)因子に属した・ヤコブ病(vCJD)因子に属した。関型PrPres と BSE PrPres の構造では重度の海綿状態が観察されてはgOv Tg マウスに接種した全ンが分岐進化している可能性を含めが応回製剤の製造工程において、コメンに対してプリオン除去工まな全対策上の措置を講じる必要を対策上の措置を講じる必要にある。 | 離 (a) 世 (ない) と (b) と (c) と (| 種のプロストリストリストリストリストリストリストリストリストリストリストリストリストリス | その他参考事項等 BYL-2007-0252 |
| ↓ 漿分画製剤の製造工程におけるプリオン除去工程を評価する際 に考慮が必要となる可能性がある。 | | | | 119台除 | | | 『女主対策上の措置を講しる必 【集に努める。 | 交 は/よいく | 一々んる。りさ杭 | |

(7)

Isolation from Cattle of a Prion Strain Distinct from That Causing Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Vincent Béringue¹, Anna Bencsik^{2©}, Annick Le Dur^{1©}, Fabienne Reine¹, Thanh Lan Laï¹, Nathalie Chenais³, Gaëlie Tilly³, Anne-Gaëlle Biacabé², Thierry Baron², Jean-Luc Vilotte³, Hubert Laude^{1*}

1 Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Virologie immunologie Moléculaires, Jouy-en-Josas, France, 2 Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments, Unité Agents Transmissibles Non Conventionnels, Lyon, France, 3 Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Génétique Biochimique, et Cytogénétique, Jouy-en-Josas, France

To date, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and its human counterpart, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, have been associated with a single prion strain. This strain is characterised by a unique and remarkably stable biochemical profile of abnormal protease-resistant prion protein (PrP^{res}) isolated from brains of affected animals or humans. However, alternate PrP^{res} signatures in cattle have recently been discovered through large-scale screening. To test whether these also represent separate prion strains, we inoculated French cattle isolates characterised by a PrP^{res} of higher apparent molecular mass—called H-type—into transgenic mice expressing bovine or ovine PrP. All mice developed neurological symptoms and succumbed to these isolates, showing that these represent a novel strain of infectious prions. Importantly, this agent exhibited strain-specific features clearly distinct from that of BSE agent inoculated to the same mice, which were retained on further passage. Moreover, it also differed from all sheep scrapie isolates passaged so far in ovine PrP-expressing mice. Our findings therefore raise the possibility that either various prion strains may exist in cattle, or that the BSE agent has undergone divergent evolution in some animals.

Citation: Beringue V, Bencsik A, Le Dur A, Reine F, Laï TL, et al. (2006) isolation from cattle of a prion strain distinct from that causing bovine spongiform encephalopathy. PLoS Pathog 2(10): e112. DOI: 10.1371/journal.ppat.0020112

Introduction

While transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) in small ruminants and humans are believed to involve distinct prion strains [1,2], a single prion strain has been associated so far with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and its human counterpart, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) [3-6]. In particular, the abnormal, protease-resistant form of prion protein (PrPres) that accumulates in the brains of infected individuals [7] shows a consistently unique electrophoretic profile in immunoblots [8]. However, the biochemical testing of the brains of slaughtered and fallen cattle, which was intensified since 2000 in European countries as a means to protect the consumers, has led to the discovery of positive samples that showed distinct PrPres profiles. These atypical profiles have been sorted into two groups so far, provisionally termed H-type when the size of the protease resistant fragments is higher than for BSE, and bovine amyloidotic spongiform encephalopathy, or L-type, when it is lower [9,10]. These observations raise the possibility that as yet unrecognised prion strains may exist in cattle as in other species [11], and have potential implications in terms of public health. Unlike bovine amyloidotic spongiform encephalopathy isolates, which derive from animals with defined histopathological abnormalities [10], precise information corroborating a prion disease is lacking for H-type cases. It was therefore crucial to determine through experimental transmission whether such cases reflect some alteration in PrP metabolism, possibly in aging animals, or involve a truly infectious agent.

In this study, we report the transmission of a TSE-like disease by inoculation of French cattle isolates identified as H-type variants to two lines of PrP transgenic mice. Furthermore, we provide compelling evidence that this agent has unique features compared to epizootic BSE and other related agents. We also establish that there is no link with ovine TSE isolates transmitted so far to these models.

Results

H-Type Isolates Are Transmissible to Mice

Two transgenic mouse lines were used as recipient for transmission experiments. The tg540 line is a newly established line that expresses bovine PrP (Protocol S1), resulting in an enhanced susceptibility to BSE agent compared to conventional mice [6,12]. The tg338 line, expressing the VRQ (Val¹³⁶Arg¹⁵⁴Gln¹⁷¹) allele of ovine PrP, has allowed an efficient transmission of natural scrapie isolates from sheep and goat [13,14]. The rationale for including tg338 mice in this study was the possibility that characterisation of a prion

Editor: Neil Mabbott, Institute for Animal Health, United Kingdom

Received June 6, 2006; Accepted September 12, 2006; Published October 20, 2006

DOI: 10.1371/journal.ppat.0020112

Copyright: © 2006 Béringue et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Abbreviations: BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy; PrPres, protease-resistant prion protein; TgBov, bovine tg540; TgOv, ovine tg338; TSE, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies; vCJD, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

- * To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: hubert.laude@jouy.inra.fr
- These authors contributed equally to this work.



PLoS Pathogens | www.plospathogens.org

October 2006 | Volume 2 | Issue 10 | e112

Synopsis Prions are unconventional agents of proteir nature that are forme of abnormal conformations of the host-epcoded prior protein (Pri They cause satal "heurodegenerative diseases in Dour animals an humans and can be transmitted between species as exemplified in numains by the emergence of variant Gregorial sakes diseas following the epidents of boxing spongtomic exceptalopathy (BSI in the Optical Grigology, Since diagnose of photomics on is only oossible once the central nervous system ha of slauginered of fallen cattle are routinely screened in Europe to protect the consumers from BSE. This has unexpectedly led to the discovery of unprecedented PrP conformations that were distinct from the single one associated so far with BSE or BSE related diseases. To precisely determine their etiology, the authors have studied the transmissibility of these new conformations, termed Hype, og transgenigingse ergressing erther bovine or bvine Parka now that, these cases are highly pathogenic for tilese inice: anting paste stemonare nettra a hay are in a cilipany state i antina Egipticonnen punti i tra 1881 nantionite, Superarmite the Shawson Egiption of his new antinations and a state systematic nettra nettra entre

accidentally passed from small ruminants to cattle might be facilitated on such mice, by comparison with the ovine isolates transmitted so far. Tg540 (tgBov) and tg338 (tgOv) mice overexpress PrP in the brain at similar levels (~8- to 10fold). Both lines have a normal lifespan, the same as PrP000 mice on which the transgenes were introduced. H-type isolates representative of a series of seven samples identified in France were inoculated intracerebrally to tgBov and tgOv mice (Table 1). Typical BSE agents from cattle and from other species was inoculated to the same mice for the sake of comparison. Remarkably, all H-type isolates induced a neurological disease on primary transmission, with a 100%

riax si publici sire inlly morniored

attack rate in both mouse lines. The mean survival times observed with cases no. 1 and no. 2 in tgBov mice, ~400 d, appeared to be prolonged compared to those for cattle, sheep, goat BSE, and human vCJD inocula, which ranged from ~250 to 380 d. Such a discrepancy could reflect a lesser infectivity of H-type samples, consistent with their comparatively lower PrPres content [9]. Moreover, the survival time was reduced by -100 d on subpassage, approaching that for BSE from cattle or other sources on secondary passage, or on primary passage for inocula of presumably higher titre (i.e., producing no substantial reduction of survival time on subpassage: BSE no. 3 and ARQ [Ala¹³⁶Arg¹⁵⁴Gln¹⁷¹] no. 1). Upon transmission to tgOv mice, the mean incubation period produced by the four H-type cases was strikingly homogeneous (586-612 d), consistent with a potentially unique agent (Table 1). This was comparable to or even shorter than the incubation periods of epizootic BSE or related inocula on the same mice (560-792 d). As illustrated in Figure 1, the relative incubation periods observed on tgOv and tgBov mice appeared to differ significantly among the H-type and BSEtype agents. In addition, the reduction in incubation period observed upon secondary transmission of H-type (case no. 2) on tgOv mice was significantly less dramatic than that observed for vCJD and sheep BSE inocula (Table 1). Overall, these suggested that H-type and BSE might be different TSE agents.

H-Type PrPres Profile Is Preserved in Transgenic Mice

The brains of diseased mice were analysed by immunoblotting for the accumulation of abnormal PrP. PrPres was readily detected in all mice tested since the first passage, consistent with the efficient transmission observed in both lines (10/10 and 33/33 positive brains for tgBov and tgOv mice, respectively). The PrPres molecular profile was fairly uniform

Table 1. Transmission of Bovine Molecular Variant Cases (H-Type) to Transgenic Mice Expressing Bovine or Ovine PrP

| solate | Case Number | Passage | Mean survival time, $d \pm SEM (n/n_0)^2$ | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|---|------------------|--|
| | | | tgBov Mice | tgOv Mice | |
| H-type | 1 | First | 414 ± 10 (5/5) | 612 ± 26 (10/10) | |
| · ** | | Second | 317 ± 6 (8/8) | ND | |
| | 2 | First | 401 ± 9 (5/5) | 595 ± 18 (8/8) | |
| | | Second | 296 ± 3 (9/9) | 319 ± 10 (6/6) | |
| • | 3 | First | ND | 607 ± 12 (6/6) | |
| | 5 | First | ND | 586 ± 15 (9/9) | |
| 5Ē | 1 | First | 377 ± 22 (6/6) | · ND | |
| • | 3 | First | 298 ± 7 (9/9) | 704 ± 36 (7/7) | |
| | | Second | 283 ± 10 (5/5) | NA | |
| heep BSE ^b | ARQ 1 | First | 278 ± 2 (6/6) | 560 ± 60 (5/5) | |
| | | Second | 263 ± 6 (6/6) | 178 ± 2 (4/4) | |
| | ARQ 3 | First | 339 ± 25 (5/5) | ND | |
| | ARR 1 | First | 340 ± 8 (7/7) | ND | |
| oat BSE ^c | CH636 | First | 253 ± 9 (6/6) | 590 ± 43 (4/4) | |
| | | Second | 291 ± 27 (5/5) | NA | |
| ariant CJD | NHBY0/0003 | First | 343 ± 8 (5/5) | 792 ± 22 (6/6) | |
| 4 | | Second | 293 ± 11 (6/6) | 195 ± 9 (6/6) | |
| ontrol | Sheep brain | First | 793 ± 26 (0/9) | 835 ± 15 (0/6) | |

NA, not available: ND, not done

Intracerebral inoculation with 2 mg brain tissue equivalent; n/n₀: diseased/inoculated.

^bExperimental cases.

DOI: 10.1371/journal.ppat.0020112.t001



0957

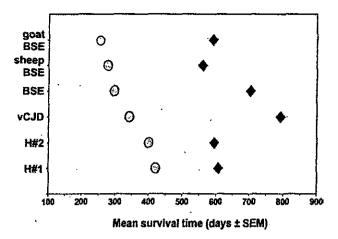


Figure 1. Survival Time in Transgenic Mice Infected with H-Type and BSE-Type Agents

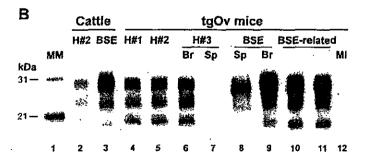
Mean survival times (days \pm SEM) upon primary transmission are shown for tgBov (grey circles) and tgOv (black diamonds) mice inoculated with H-type cases, BSE, and related isolates (see Table 1). The intervals between the incubation times on each line are significantly different for H-type and BSE agents (p < 0.0002, Fisher test). DOI: 10.1371/journal.ppat.0020112.g001

among the isolates. Remarkably, like the BSE agent for which the typical signature was conserved whatever the donor species (\geq 3 brains analysed per combination), the H-type agent essentially retained its biochemical phenotype upon serial transmission to tgBov as well as to tgOv mice expressing a heterologous PrP^C (Figure 2 and below). Compared to BSE PrP^{res}, it was characterised by a significantly higher apparent molecular mass (difference measured for unglycosylated species: 0.9 ± 0.05 kDa and 0.7 ± 0.06 kDa in tgBov and tgOv mice, respectively) and the relative proportions of glycoforms were essentially similar. A further difference was the lack of detectable PrP^{res} in the spleen of H-type diseased tgOv mice (three to five spleens tested per isolate), while this accumulated at substantial levels after BSE or vGJD infection (Figure 2B).

H-Type and Epizootic BSE Agents Exhibit Distinct Neuropathological Features

We next examined the PrPres targeting and the vacuolation in the brain, which are known to exhibit a strain-dependent variation [6,15,16]. This was performed on tgBov mice since they express a PrP^G homologous to that of the donors, including the number of octarepeats [17], thus providing a relevant context for comparing H-type and epizootic BSE isolates. H-type isolates showed a similar distribution of PrPres deposits on both primary and





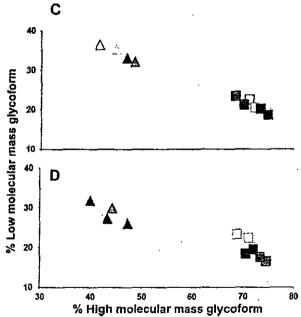


Figure 2. Western Blot Analysis of PrPres in the Brains of Transgenic Mice Infected with H-Type or BSE-Type Agents

(A) British or escended (I) no 61 transmission to talk a price PSE type in equals include participated by the PSE on 3 (Inner 2 and 7) shoop P

(A) Primary or secondary (lane 6) transmission to tgBov mice. BSE-type inocula include cattle BSE no. 3 (lanes 3 and 7), sheep BSE ARQ no. 1 and ARR no. 1 (lanes 8 and 9), goat BSE (lane 10), and vCJD (lane 11). The PrPres profiles of both H-type and BSE agents in cattle (lanes 2 and 3) are essentially similar to those in tgBov mice (lanes 4–11). Brain tissue equivalent loaded: 2.5 mg in lane 2; 0.15 mg in lane 3; 0.5 mg in lanes 4–12. Ml, mock-infected brain; MM, molecular markers.

(8) Primary transmission to tgOv mice. H-type agent shows a distinct PrP^{res} pattern in the brain (8r) compared to BSE agents (lane 9, BSE no. 3; lane 10, goat BSE; lane 11, vCJD). Note the lack of PrP^{res} signal in the spleen (Sp) of H-type—infected mice (lane 7), unlike that in BSE-infected mice (lane 8). Brain or spleen tissue equivalent loaded: 3 mg in lane 2: 0.15 mg in lane 3: 0.5 mg in lane 3 - 12.

or spleen tissue equivalent loaded: 3 mg in lane 2; 0.15 mg in lanes 4-6; 2 mg in lanes 7-12. (C and D) Ratio of high- and low-molecular-mass Prpnes glycoforms in the brains of tgBov (C) and tgOv (D) mice following challenge with H-type or BSE agents (data plotted as means ± SEM). H-type isolates are represented as triangles (no. 1, blue; no. 2, orange; no. 3, pink; and no. 5, black) and BSE agents as squares (BSE no. 3, red; sheep BSE ARQ no. 1, grey; sheep BSE ARR no. 1, yellow; goat BSE, brown; and vCJD, light blue). Secondary transmissions are represented by unfilled symbols of the same colour. Note the strikingly distinct glycoform ratio between H-type and BSE groups in both mouse lines, as reported in cattle [9].

DOI: 10.1371/journal.ppat.0020112.g002



PLoS Pathogens | www.plospathogens.org

October 2006 | Volume 2 | Issue 10 | e112

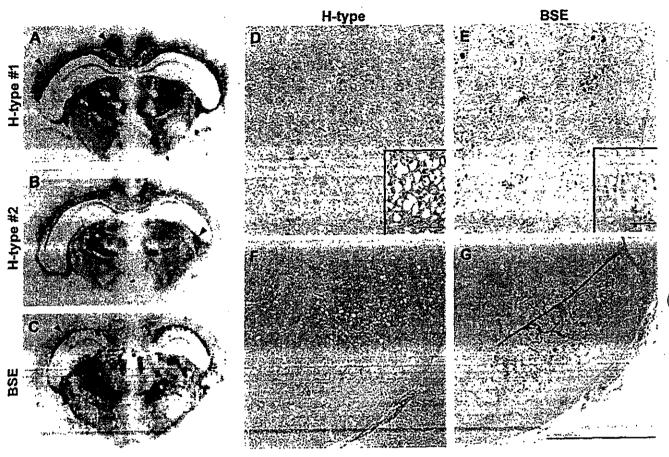


Figure 3. Regional Distribution of PrPres and Vacuolar Changes in the Brains of Bovine Transgenic Mice infected with H-Type or BSE Agents Histoblots of representative coronal sections of tgBov mouse brains at the levels of the hippocampus are shown. The distribution of PrPres deposits was similar among H-type isolates (A) (B), and different from that of cattle BSE (C) in several areas indicated by arrowheads, such as the cortex, the corpus callosum and dorsal commissure, alveus, fimbria, and stratum oriens of the hippocampus. Note that intensity of PrP deposition markedly differed between H-type and BSE agents. Illustration of how this appears by immunohistochemistry in the striatum (D) (E) and substantia nigra (F) (G), H-type—infected mice being less intensively labelled than those infected with BSE agent. By contrast, spongiosis was much more severe in H-type—infected brains. Bars: 30 µm; insert: 7 µm.

DOI: 10.1371/journal.ppat.0020112.g003

secondary transmission, as assessed by histoblotting on brain coronal sections (Figure 3A-3B). The staining did not differ from that seen with cattle BSE in several regions, such as the striatum and several nuclei of the thalamus, including the geniculate, ventral postero-lateral and -medial as well as the brain stem (Figure 3A-3C and data not shown). However, other areas such as the cerebral cortex, the corpus callosum including the cingulum, the dorsal commissure, the alveus, and fimbria of the hippocampus were predominantly stained with H-type, whereas BSE PrPres was rather confined in the stratum oriens of the hippocampus (Figure 3A-3C). Moreover, the overall intensity and aspect of PrP deposition markedly differed between the two types of agents. While immunochemistry revealed various types of PrP deposits in both cases, thin diffuse PrP deposits were predominant in H-type-infected brains, whereas the most frequent type was granular in BSE-infected mouse brains. In several areas, including the striatum and the substantia nigra (Figure 3D-3G), there was a striking lack of correlation between the intensity of PrP deposition and the severity of the vacuolation. Overall, the vacuolation was much more intense

in the case of H-type variant (Figures 3 and 4): areas such as the septum, hypothalamus, hippocampus, and cortex showed severe spongiosis, accompanied by a pronounced reactive glial astrocytosis based on GFAP staining (not shown), while BSE-induced vacuolation was moderate in the same areas.

H-Type Agent Is Distinct from the Ovine TSE Isolates Transmitted so Far to tgOv Mice

We finally examined whether H-type isolates may have an ovine TSE origin. The majority of typical and atypical sheep scrapie isolates we have studied so far transmits before a year to tgOv mice ([13,14] and our unpublished data). Only a group of sheep scrapie isolates from Italy (SSit) was found to infect tgOv mice after a prolonged survival time within the range of H-type cases. Indeed three of them, SSit cases no. 5, no. 7, and no. 8, induced a typical neurodegenerative disease with a mean survival time of 698 ± 20 d (5/5 animals affected), 659 ± 31 d (7/7), and 569 ± 37 d (4/4), respectively. Case no. 5 incubation time was still longer than H-type case no. 2 on subpassage (417 \pm 20 d, 6/6 animals affected). The PrPres molecular profile observed in the brain of SSit-diseased mice