

Table 1. Comparative virulence of WT and *siaB* mutants of nontypable *Hemophilus influenzae* (NTHi), strains 375, 477, 285, and 162, in an experimental chinchilla model of otitis media (OM)

Strain	Inoculum size	Incidence OM*	Day 1		Days 2–3		Days 5–6		Days 8–10		Days 13–14		Days 17–19		Days 23–24	
			CFU/ml [†]	SE [†]	CFU/ml [†]	SE [†]	CFU/ml [†]	SE [†]	CFU/ml [†]	SE [†]	CFU/ml [†]	SE [†]	CFU/ml [†]	SE [†]	CFU/ml [†]	SE [†]
375	≈50	11/11	4.5 × 10 ⁵	2.3	1.1 × 10 ⁷	2.9	1.3 × 10 ⁷	1.8	1.1 × 10 ⁶	3.1	2.5 × 10 ⁵	3.4	8.2 × 10 ⁴	3.5	2.1 × 10 ²	2.1
477	≈100	2/2	–	–	4.1 × 10 ⁶	3.4	2.6 × 10 ⁶	1.7	5.2 × 10 ⁶	1	9.5 × 10 ⁵	1.9	0	–	0	–
285	≈100	2/2	–	–	3.1 × 10 ³	2.6	5.0 × 10 ⁶	1	5.1 × 10 ⁵	13	2.0 × 10 ⁴	20	0	–	0	–
162	≈100	2/2	–	–	7.1 × 10 ⁶	1.4	8.5 × 10 ⁶	1.1	6.6 × 10 ⁵	6.6	2.2 × 10 ⁷	2.2	1.7 × 10 ⁶	1.2	0	–
375 <i>siaB</i>	≈50	2/6	0	–	0	–	1.2 × 10 ³ [‡]	12	1.1 × 10 ³ ^δ	5.6	0	–	0	–	–	–
477 <i>siaB</i> [‡]	≈100	1/3 [‡]	–	–	1.0 × 10 ⁸	–	1.0 × 10 ⁸	–	1.8 × 10 ⁴	–	0	–	–	–	–	–
285 <i>siaB</i>	≈100	0/3	–	–	0	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
162 <i>siaB</i>	≈100	0/3	–	–	0	–	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

*Number of animals with OM (as evidenced by the presence of middle ear fluid and cultures of NTHi from the middle ear)/total number of chinchillas inoculated).

[†]Colony-forming units (cfu)/ml: geometric mean and SE of viable counts of *Hi* at various times (days after inoculation) as indicated; 0, no growth from middle ear fluid; –, absence of middle ear fluid for culture.

[‡]Viable counts obtained from single sample of middle ear exudate as only one chinchilla was infected.

^δViable counts obtained from single sample of middle ear exudate as only one chinchilla was infected.