



Supplementary Material

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      10      20      30      40      50      60      70      80
HT2_2014_origin  .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
HT2_2014_muta   TAGTACTAAGCATATTCGTCAGGGAGCAAAGCAGGGGTCTAATCTGTCAA.....|.....|
      90      100     110     120     130     140     150     160
HT2_2014_origin AACAAATCAGCCTGTCAAAAGCGATCATATTTGCATTGGTTATCATGCAAAATACTCGACAGAGCAGGTTGACACAATAA
HT2_2014_muta   T I S L V K S D H I C I G Y H A N N S T E Q V D T I
      170     180     190     200     210     220     230     240
HT2_2014_origin TGGAAAAGAAAGCTTACTGTACACATGCCCCAAGACATACCTGGAAAAGACACCAATGGGAAGCTCTGCAGATCTAAATGGA
HT2_2014_muta   M E K N V T V T H A Q D I L E K T H N G K L C D L N G
      250     260     270     280     290     300     310     320
HT2_2014_origin GTGAAGCCTCTGATTTTAAAGATTGTAGTGTAGCAGGATGGCTCCTCGAAATCCATTGTGACGAATTCATCAATGT
HT2_2014_muta   V K P L I L K D C S V A G W L L G N P L C D E F I N V
      330     340     350     360     370     380     390     400
HT2_2014_origin GCCAGAAATGGTCTTACATAGTAGAGAAGCCCAATCCAGCCAATGACCTCTGTACCAGGAAATTTCAACGATTAATGAAG
HT2_2014_muta   P E W S Y I V E K P N P A N D L C Y P G N F N D Y E
      410     420     430     440     450     460     470     480
HT2_2014_origin AATTGAAACCTATTGAGCAGGATAAACCAATTTTGAGAAAATACAGATCAATCCCAAGATTCCTGGTCAAAACCATGAA
HT2_2014_muta   E L K H L L S R I N H F E K I Q I I P K D S W S N H E
      490     500     510     520     530     540     550     560
HT2_2014_origin GCCTCAATGGGGGTGAGCGCAGCATGTTCCATACCAGGAAATTCCTCCTTCTCAGAAATGTTGGTGGCTTATCAAAA
HT2_2014_muta   A S L G V S A A C S Y Q G N S S F F R N V V W L I K K
      570     580     590     600     610     620     630     640
HT2_2014_origin GGACAATGCATACCCAAACAATAAAGAAAGGCTACAATAATACCAACCGAGAAGATCTATTGATACGTGGGGAAATCCACC
HT2_2014_muta   D N A Y P T I K K G Y N N T N R E D L L I L W G I H
      650     660     670     680     690     700     710     720
HT2_2014_origin ATCCTAATGATGAGGCGGAACAGACAAGGCTCTACCAAAACCCAACTACCTATAATTCATTGGGACTCAACACATAAAC
HT2_2014_muta   H P N D E A E Q T R L Y Q N P T T Y I S I G T S T L N
      730     740     750     760     770     780     790     800
HT2_2014_origin CAGAGATTGGTACCAAAAATAGCCACTAGATCCAAAATAAACGGGCAAAGTGGCAGGATAGATTTCTTCTGGACAATTTT
HT2_2014_muta   Q R L V P K I A T R S K I N G Q S G R I D F F W T I L
      810     820     830     840     850     860     870     880
HT2_2014_origin AAAACCGAATGACGCAATCCACTTCGAGAGTAATGGGAATTCATTGCTCCAGAATATCGGTACAAAATTTGCAAGAAGG
HT2_2014_muta   K P N D A I H F E S N G N F I A P E Y A Y K I V K K
      890     900     910     920     930     940     950     960
HT2_2014_origin GAGACTCCACATCATGAGAAGTGAAGTGGAAATATGGTAACTGCACACCCAGGTGTCAGACTCCAATAGGGGCGATAAAC
HT2_2014_muta   G D S T I M R S E V E Y G N C N T R C Q T P I G A I N

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Figure 1. Stability of the artificial HA gene from the rescued virus was validated by sequencing. The 5' and 3' noncoding sequence in HT2_2014_muta were designed according to the molecular method described in Reference [14], including conserved regions between different influenza A subtypes (underlined) and the *BsmBI* recognition site (*italic*). The pathogenic region of HA from the original HPAI strain (HT2_2014_origin, IBT data collection) was modified as expected (HT2_2014_muta). The red arrow indicates the removal of the pathogenic region.

Table 1. Safety analysis of the rescued recombinant H5N1 virus in immunized chickens.

Immunization ^a	Total chicken number	Survival number	Chicken number with clinical outcomes ^b	Overall IVPI ^c
Control (PBS)	10	10/10	0/10	0
IBT-RG02	10	10/10	0/10	0
NAVET-Vifluvac ^d	10	10/10	0/10	0

^aVaccines were given to 3-week-old chickens via the intramuscular (IM) route as a single dose;

^bClinical outcomes: chickens with symptoms of flu disease after immunization (according to body weight loss and OIE manual on assessment of sick and severely sick chickens); ^cThe intravenous pathogenicity index (IVPI) was scored for each chicken and the mean value was calculated;

^dThe NAVET-Vifluvac vaccine was used as positive control.