

# **In-vitro inactivation of sabin-polioviruses for development of safe and effective polio vaccine**

*Amal Emad ,Asmaa A. Abd-Elghallar , Mohamed E. Rashed 2, , Magdy A. Amin*

## **Abstract**

After years of global collaboration; we are steps away from a polio-free world. However, the currently conventional inactivated polio vaccine (cIPV) is suboptimal for the post eradication era. cIPV production cost and biosafety hazards hinder its availability and coverage of the global demands. Production of IPV from the attenuated Sabin strains (sIPV) was an ideal solution and scientists work extensively to perfect a safe, effective and affordable sIPV. This study investigated the ability of hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), ascorbic acid (AA) and epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG) as alternatives for Formaldehyde (HCHO) to inactivate Sabin-poliovirus strains for sIPV production. Sabin-poliovirus vaccine strains were individually treated with AA, EGCG or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and were compared to HCHO. This was investigated by determination of the inactivation kinetics on HEP2C cells, testing of D-antigen preservation by ELISA and the immune response in Wistar rats of the four vaccine preparations. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, AA and EGCG were able to inactivate polioviruses within 24 h while HCHO required 96 h. Significant high D-antigen levels were observed using AA, EGCG and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> compared to HCHO. Rat sera tested for neutralizing antibodies showed comparable results. These findings support the idea of using these inactivating agents as safe and time-saving alternatives for HCHO to produce sIPV.

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