



Genetic disorders in dairy cattle: An Indian perspective

VIJAY KUMAR¹ and A K CHAKRAVARTY²

National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana 132 001 India

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ABSTRACT

Genetic diseases have always been present in the animal population but their significance has increased in recent decades. In some breeds, the occurrence of inherited anomalies has become frequent and economically important. Some of autosomal recessive disorders are Holstein specific. The present review article describes prevalence of the most important autosomal recessive disorders in Holstein and its crossbreds as compared to their occurrence worldwide. Mainly five disorders namely, bovine leukocyte adhesion deficiency (BLAD), deficiency of uridine monophosphate synthase (DUMPS), bovine citrullinaemia, complex vertebral malformation (CVM) and factor XI (FXI) deficiency syndrome, are being screened in Indian Holstein and its crossbred cattle with the major objective to reduce the incidence of genetic disorders in cattle population and reduce the economic losses to the organized farms. Detection of heterozygote carriers enables their selection, and therefore, the control and prevention of the spread of recessive diseases in the population.

Key words: BLAD, Bovine citrullinaemia, CVM, DUMPS, Factor XI Deficiency

India is regarded as a house of world's largest cattle population but most of them are considered to be poor producers as compared to exotic cattle. Among 37 major Indian breeds of cattle, there are only few milch breeds maintained for milk production and rest of them are neglected. Several cattle improvement programmes were initiated in the country to increase milk production of dairy animals. Key Village Scheme (KVS) and Intensive Cattle Development Projects (ICDPs) were among the first systematic attempts to improve the quality of cattle. Crossbreeding programmes of nondescript Indian cattle with exotic germplasm of Holstein Friesian, Jersey and Brown Swiss breeds, on field scale started in early sixties of 19th century with the launch of the ICDP. Crossbreeding gained momentum and economic relevance in the mid seventies. The spectacular increase in milk yield in the crossbred progenies generated overwhelming demand for crossbred cattle among cattle farming community that necessitated the expansion of the programme. As most programmes have merits and demerits, crossbreeding gave increase of milk production as merit and incorporation of new disorders in cattle as demerits. These introduced disorders are mainly genetic in nature.

A genetic disease is an illness caused by inborn abnormalities in genes. Most of them occur rarely and are

of minor concern, but some increase in their frequency to the point that they become a significant economic concern and need to be selected against. Genetic abnormalities contribute to poor animal performance, structural unsoundness, semi-lethal or lethal disease etc. The most common inheritance pattern of genetic disease is as a simple recessive trait. The defective calf receives a recessive gene from its sire and dam. Testing of genetic diseases at young age will help in avoiding heavy economic losses. Therefore, it is necessary to study all the genetic diseases with its genetic cause, clinical symptoms and frequency of occurrence in general to find out possible strategies to counter them and avoid economic losses due to these diseases in dairy cattle. The objective of this review is to recapitulate recent findings and to give theoretical background of important congenital inherited diseases: Complex vertebral malformation, bovine leukocyte adhesion deficiency, deficiency of uridine monophosphate synthase, bovine citrullinaemia and factor XI deficiency.

Complex vertebral malformation

The complex vertebral malformation (CVM) is a recessively inherited congenital disorder leading to frequent abortion of fetuses or vertebral anomalies and prenatal death (Agerholm *et al.* 2001, 2004, Nielsen *et al.* 2003). It is characterized by growth retardation and bilateral flexure of the carpal and metacarpophalangeal joints along with rotation of the digits. In stillborn, aborted and preterm calves, CVM was characterized by shortened cervical and thoracic regions of the vertebral column and symmetric arthrogryphosis (Agerholm *et al.* 2001, Duncan *et al.* 2001).

Present address: ¹Assistant Professor (jaisvet@gmail.com), Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. ²Principal Scientist (ak_chakravarty@yahoo.co.in), Dairy Cattle Breeding Division.

Multiple hemivertebrae, scoliosis and synostosis, fused and mis-shaped vertebral column have also been described. The syndrome was first discovered in the Danish Holstein population in 1999, but shortly thereafter, its occurrence was reported in Netherlands (Wouda *et al.* 2000), United States (Duncan *et al.* 2001), United Kingdom (Revell 2001) and in Japan (Nagahata *et al.* 2002). Genealogical records revealed that the calves suffering from CVM were genetically related to the US Holstein sire Penstate Ivanhoe Star (US1441440, born in 1963) and his son Carlin-M Ivanhoe Bell (US1667366) which had been used in dairy cattle breeding worldwide for two decades due to the superior lactation performance of their daughters. Consequently, the number of animals genetically related to the carrier bulls was very high and the disease-causing mutation was widespread among Holstein cattle throughout the world (Thomsen *et al.* 2006).

CVM is caused by a point mutation (missense mutation) from G to T at nucleotide position 559 of the bovine *solute carrier family 35 member 3 (SLC35A3)* gene which causes valine to phenylalanine substitution at the amino acid level (Kanae *et al.* 2005). The *SLC35A3* gene encodes a Golgi-resident UDP-N-acetyl glucosamine transporter (Thomsen *et al.* 2006). UDP-N-acetyl glucosamine transporter transports nucleotide sugars from cytosol to Golgi body to use as a substrate for glycosylation of protein, lipid and proteoglycans (Guillen *et al.* 1998). Bovine *SLC35A3* plays an immense function in the development of the axial skeleton, representing that a number of the molecular mechanisms that control during formation of vertebrae and ribs depend on carbohydrate modification in the golgi apparatus (Thomsen *et al.* 2006).

Studies of Danish Holstein showed that the extent of foetal mortality was approximately 77% prior to gestation day 260 (Nielsen *et al.* 2003). This is reflected in a significantly reduced ratio of CVM affected calves in breeding studies. Through increased foetal mortality, the status of the foetus has a significant effect on calving interval and involuntary culling of cows. The symptoms of the defect have not been observed in carriers of CVM (Agreholm *et al.* 2001). No productive and reproductive differences between carrier and non-carrier animals have been reported. The only difference which is very important was increase in the rate of intra-uterine mortality. The risk of return to service was higher in carrier animals (Berglund *et al.* 2004). Kumar *et al.* (2013a) reported that there was no significant difference between carrier and non-carrier animals for 3 month body weight of Karan-Fries calves.

To understand carriers of CVM and their probable significance in the economics of cattle breeding, Ghanem *et al.* (2008) compared the reproductive potential of CVM carrier Holstein cows in Japan with control groups. When studying the postpartum recommencement of ovulation—the carry-over of ovarian cycles after the birth of one calf—the researchers recognized that there was no major difference in the rate at which resumption occurs in carriers as compared to Holstein cows that were not carriers for

CVM (Ghanem *et al.* 2008). However, CVM carrier cows were recognized to have drastically lower conception rates than control cows, with the gap between calves observed at 463 days in carriers as compared to 399 days for control cows, telling the possibility of heightened death of embryos in CVM carrier cows (Ghanem *et al.* 2008).

The disease was first discovered in the Danish Holstein population in 1999, but soon afterward reports documented the incidence of CVM in United States (Duncan *et al.* 2001), United Kingdom (Revell 2001), Netherlands (Wouda *et al.* 2000, 2001), Japan (Nagahata *et al.* 2002), Sweden (Berglund *et al.* 2004), Belgium (Mateusen *et al.* 2004) Czech Republic (Citek *et al.* 2006, 2008), Denmark (Thomson *et al.* 2006), Morocco (Boujenane and Ouhmama 2009), China (Chu *et al.* 2010, Wang *et al.* 2011, 2012, Zhang *et al.* 2012), Slovakia (Gabor *et al.* 2012) India (Kotikalapudi *et al.* 2013) and in Poland (Rusc *et al.* 2013). Berglund *et al.* (2004) estimated that 2,200 affected fetuses were produced yearly between 1995 and 1999 in Holstein population in Sweden, while the yearly loss in Germany was likely to be more than 8,000 fetuses between 1997 and 2000 (Konersmann *et al.* 2003). The flawed allele for CVM had reached in Holstein populations globally though widespread utilization of sires that afterward turned out to be carriers of the defect. Konersmann *et al.* (2003) reported that 13.2% of 957 sires used for insemination in Germany were found as carriers of CVM, while a prevalence of 31% and 32.5% was found in Denmark (Thomsen *et al.* 2006) and Japan (Nagahata *et al.* 2002). In Poland, out of the 605 bulls screened, 150 heterozygotes were diagnosed, including 118 that were progenies of known CVM carriers (Rusc and Kaminski 2007). Chu *et al.* (2008) by means of the polymerase chain reaction-single-stranded conformational polymorphism (PCR-SSCP) method, found 10 CVM carriers among 68 at-risk Chinese Holstein bulls and 282 carriers were found among 602 cows at-risk. Rezaee *et al.* (2008) found no carrier in Iranian Holstein bull. Ghanem *et al.* (2008) screened 200 Japanese Holstein crossbred cows and they found 26 (13%) cows were CVM carrier. Meydan *et al.* (2010) observed the mutant allele frequencies were 0.017 with corresponding carrier prevalence of 3.4% CVM in Turkey. In India, Mahdi *et al.* (2010a) examined 52 Holstein crossbred (KF) bulls and found that frequency of carriers was 20.35%. In the same herd 84 (76.36%) out of 110 at risk KF animals were found CVM carrier (Kumar *et al.* 2011a) and subsequently Yathish *et al.* (2011) reported that out of 55 KF male calves, none were CVM carriers.

Bovine leukocyte adhesion deficiency syndrome

Bovine leukocyte adhesion deficiency syndrome (BLAD) is an autosomal recessive hereditary disease affecting young Holstein calves characterized by recurrent bacterial infections, progressive periodontitis, ulcers of oral mucosa and impaired inflammatory responses (Kehrli *et al.* 1990, Nagahata *et al.* 1987, Kumar and Sharma 2009). These clinical findings are associated with impaired Neutrophil functions such as markedly decreased adherence,

chemotaxis and phagocytosis (Nagahata *et al.* 1987, Takahashi *et al.* 1987). In 1990, a lack of β_2 integrin molecules expressed on the leukocytes from affected animals was found in a calf with granulocytopeny syndrome (Kehrli *et al.* 1990) and this disease was termed bovine leukocyte adhesion deficiency, which was considered to be analogous to human LAD. (Anderson *et al.* 1986, Kishimoto *et al.* 1989, Springer *et al.* 1984). Same deficiency syndrome is also called CLAD in dogs (Giger *et al.* 1987). BLAD causes immuno-depression in the early days of life. The animal is then sensitive to all infectious agents which can cause digestive, respiratory, cutaneous disorders and death. This disease is due to the absence of a protein β_2 integrin at the surface of neutrophils, which stops them from playing their role in non-specific defense of the animal.

BLAD was first identified in Holstein-Friesian cattle at the beginning of the eighties and no study has reported the occurrence and etiology of this disease in other breeds. The mutation found in the Holstein breed can be traced back to a heterozygote bull (Osborndale Ivanhoe), which due to its elevated genetic merit for milk production has been widely used in artificial insemination. This bull and its offspring (Penstate Ivanhoe star - son and Carlin M Ivanhoe Bell - grandson) founded one of the main Holstein lineages. They are also responsible for spreading BLAD to several herds worldwide (Shuster *et al.* 1992). Affected cattle with BLAD were linked to common ancestral sires that had been documented to be carriers.

The molecular basis of BLAD is a single point mutation (adenine to guanine) at position 383 of the CD18 gene, which caused an aspartic acid to glycine substitution at amino acid 128 (D128G) in the glycoprotein. This mutation occurs near the centre of 26 consecutive amino acids that are identical in normal bovine, human, and murine CD18 and lies within a large extracellular region that is highly conserved across integrin β sub-units (Kishimoto *et al.* 1989, Shuster *et al.* 1992). The other mutation, cytosine to thymine, between the normal and the BLAD allele detected at position 775 in the CD18 gene is silent (Shuster *et al.* 1992).

An experiment carried out to find out effects of the BLAD allele on milk, fat and protein yields, productive life and somatic cell scores. Data gathered from the Holstein Association, USA showed that carrier bulls were negative for all traits but significant only for protein (Powell *et al.* 1996). Same experiment also carried out in Taiwan and found milk production of BLAD-carriers was slightly higher than normal cows but somatic cell count was worse (Huang *et al.* 2001). In another investigation in Hungary, the relationship between bovine leukocyte adhesion deficiency (BLAD) genotype of bulls, their breeding value for milk yield, milk fat yield and milk protein yield and the milk yield of their daughters was studied. BLAD-carrier and healthy bulls were compared on the basis of their breeding value. The first 100 bulls ranked according to the total production index were used, including 9 BLAD carriers

and 77 healthy sires with 2,835 and 21,950 daughters respectively. The BLAD genotype was not indicated for 14 bulls. The healthy animals significantly outperformed the BLAD carriers (Janosa *et al.* 1999). In a study, Kumar *et al.* (2013b) reported that there was no significant difference between carrier and non-carrier animals for three month body weight of calves.

BLAD carriers were among the most prominent bulls of the Holstein breed such as Osborndale Ivanhoe, Penstate Ivanhoe Star and Carlin-M Ivanhoe Bell (Powell *et al.* 1996, Shuster *et al.* 1992). Affected cattle with BLAD were linked to common ancestral sires that had been documented to be carriers (Jorgensen *et al.* 1993, Shuster *et al.* 1992). Several Holstein-Friesian bulls were identified as BLAD carriers and the gene encoding impaired CD18 spread to many countries.

Initially lack of efficient methods for identifying such type of genetic disorders and use of semen of proven carrier bulls lead to highest level of BLAD allele frequency in Holstein in US 23% (Shuster *et al.* 1992), France 10% (Tainturier *et al.* 1995), Germany (black and white HF 13.5% & red and white HF 0.3%) (Biochard *et al.* 1995), Argentina HF cattle 2.88% (Poli *et al.* 1996), Japan HF cattle 16% to 32% (Nagahata *et al.* 1997), Brazil HF 2.8% (defected); 5.7% (carrier) (Ribeiro *et al.* 2000). This disorder had also been reported from United Kingdom (Andrews *et al.* 1996), Hungary (Janosa *et al.* 1999), Korea (Chung *et al.* 1997), Lithuania (Kucinskiene and Miceikiene 2000), Uruguay (Llambi *et al.* 2003), Iran (Esmaelizad *et al.* 2002; Nassiry *et al.* 2005), Poland (Czarnik and Kaminski 1997), Denmark (Jorgensen *et al.* 1993), Austria (Schilcher *et al.* 1995) and India (Muraleedharan *et al.* 1999, Patel *et al.* 2007a, Mahdi *et al.* 2010b, Kumar *et al.* 2011b, Roy *et al.* 2012).

Shuster *et al.* (1992) tested 20 calves with clinical symptoms of LAD and found that all were homozygous for the D128G allele. In addition, 2 calves homozygous for the D128G allele were identified during widespread DNA testing and both were subsequently found to exhibit symptoms of LAD. The carrier frequency for the D128G allele among Holstein cattle in the United States was approximately 15% among bulls and 6% among cows. All cattle with the mutant allele were related to one bull, which through the use of artificial insemination sired many calves in the 1950s and 1960s. Screening of 4,000 dairy cows and heifer in US showed that, annually more than 16,000 to 20,000 recessive homozygote calves were born which were ultimately removed from population due to some infections (Biochard *et al.* 1995). Kehrli *et al.* (1991) tested 815 proven bulls and found that 10 bulls were BLAD-carriers. Biochard *et al.* (1995) tested 359 Holstein animals who were relatives and they found that this deficiency had been transmitting to next generation. Mortality rate in defective animals were 50% and 100%, respectively, in 2 month and 1 year old calves. Nagahata *et al.* (1997) tested 769 blood samples in Japan in 1994, 1995 and reported that the chances of born for BLAD are 0.16 to 0.32% respectively. Ribeiro *et al.*

(2000) estimated that the frequency of homozygous recessive animals was 2.8% and heterozygous animals were 5.7% in Brazil. Bulls (146) from artificial insemination stations and cows (192) kept in different regions of Lithuania were tested. Four bulls were found to be BLAD gene carriers. As their semen was widely used for cows' insemination in Lithuania, it resulted in 6.7% of BLAD frequency in dam population (Kucinskiene and Miceikiene 2000). Norouzy *et al.* (2005) tested 30 proven bulls in Iran and reported the frequency of carrier animals as 3.33%. In Turkey Akyuz *et al.* (2010) and Sahin *et al.* (2013) found 1.5% and 2% carriers in Holstein cows. In Chinese HF cattle BLAD-carrier frequency found to be 0.49% (Li *et al.* 2011). Adamov *et al.* 2014 found 2 carriers from 84 HF cow in Macedonia.

Patel *et al.* (2007a) examined 377 HF, 334 HF crossbred, 105 Jersey and 160 other breeds and found that frequency of carriers was only 3.23% in HF and its crosses in India. Mahdi *et al.* (2010b) examined 52 HF crossbred bulls and found that frequency of carriers was 7.31% in India. Kumar *et al.* (2011b) screened at risk KF animals and found that frequency of carriers was 21.82% in his sample. Yathish *et al.* (2010) examined 55 HF crossbred male calves and found that frequency of carriers was 3.64%. In a study by Khade *et al.* (2014), all the 50 HF crossbred cattle were found unaffected.

Deficiency of uridine monophosphate synthase

Deficiency of uridine monophosphate synthase (DUMPS) is a genetic disorder which interferes with pyrimidine biosynthesis. Uridine monophosphate synthase has a key role on the pyrimidine nucleotide synthesis, which is essential for normal growth and development for several ruminant and nonruminant species (Healy and Shanks 1987). Inactivation of this enzyme is caused by an autosomal-recessive heredity mutation, which occurs in the gene of UMPS. The mutation (C→T) leads to the loss of the restriction site of *Ava*I site in codon 405 of the gene (Schwenger *et al.* 1993). This disorder is named as DUMPS in the Holstein cattle and characterized by lowered blood activity of enzyme UMPS (Healy and Shanks 1987). DUMPS leads to embryonic death in early stage of pregnancy (Ghanem *et al.* 2006). So some serious reproductive problems take place in dairy herds.

The deficiency of uridine monophosphate synthase results in early embryonic death of homozygous offspring. In late 1987, the condition was declared an undesirable enzyme defect by the Holstein Association of America (HAA) and a screening programme was initiated by using a biochemical assay involving estimation of erythrocyte UMP synthase. Heterozygous or carriers have half of the normal activity of this enzyme (Shanks and Robinson 1990). Most of the DUMPS carriers identified in North America and Europe were the offspring of Happy Herd Beautician, a 5th best U.S. Holstein bull in 1987. Two HF carriers were found among 314 AI bulls in Hungary (Fesus *et al.* 1999). Mutation in the UMPS gene was also identified in 1.79%

bulls, 0.96% cows in Argentina (Poli *et al.* 1996). Taiwan also reported two carrier out of 1468 HF animals screened for DUMPS (Lin *et al.* 2001a).

Several investigations were carried out in different countries (Kumar *et al.* 2010). No carrier animals were found among Holstein populations in Poland (Kaminski *et al.* 2005), Iran (Rahimi *et al.* 2006) and Turkey (Akyüz and Ertugrul 2008), but the mutant allele was detected in the studies carried out in USA (Shanks *et al.* 1987) and Argentina (Poli *et al.* 1996). Citek *et al.* (2006) screened 406 Holstein sires entering the AI programme in the Czech Republic from 2003–2005, no heterozygous sire for DUMPS was found. Patel *et al.* (2006) screened DUMPS in Indian Holstein cattle. The polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) analysis was performed on a group of 642 animals, mainly HF and HF crossbred cattle, to identify carriers of these diseases. None of the animals were carriers of DUMPS. Sharma *et al.* (2013a) found none of the KF animals carrier of DUMPS in their study. Gaur *et al.* (2013) found one DUMPS carrier out of 86 Indian Holstein bulls.

Factor XI deficiency syndrome

Factor XI (FXI) deficiency is an autosomal recessive disorder (Kumar *et al.* 2011c), with partial deficiency of FXI coagulant activity in heterozygotes and considerable deficiency in homozygotes (Gentry and Ross 1994). One of the protein factors involved in blood coagulation is a serine protease – factor XI, also known as plasma thromboplastin antecedent. It is synthesized in the liver as a zymogen, and after conversion to a proteolytic enzyme, it participates in intrinsic or contact activation of the process (Gentry and Downie 1977). FXI deficiency was recognized in humans (Rosenthal *et al.* 1953) and cattle (Kociba *et al.* 1969, Gentry *et al.* 1975). FXI gene is located on chromosome number 4 in human (Asakai *et al.* 1987) and on chromosome number 27 in cattle. FXI gene encodes coagulation factor XI of the blood coagulation cascade and it is one of more than a dozen proteins involved in blood clotting.

In cattle, FXI-deficient animals may be asymptomatic or display several symptoms, like prolonged bleeding, anemia, greater prevalence of repeat breeding (Gentry and Black 1980, Brush *et al.* 1987, Liptrap *et al.* 1995), or even lower resistance to pneumonia, mastitis and metritis (Gentry *et al.* 1996). FXI deficiency has been identified in several species of mammals, including humans, dogs and cattle. In cattle, FXI deficiency has been described in Holstein cattle in Ohio and later in Canadian cattle, while some cases of hemorrhagic problems in British cattle have been reported. FXI deficiency may result in prolonged bleeding and anemia. Continued bleeding from the umbilical cord is sometimes seen in affected calves. Prolonged oozing of blood following dehorning or castration may also be observed. Affected cows frequently have pink-coloured colostrum. Blood in the milk led to the identification of the condition in a British dairy herd. Additionally, FXI

deficiency causes to reduced reproductive performance and affected animals appear to be more susceptible to diseases such as pneumonia, mastitis and metritis. Therefore, the presence of this genetic defect may have a significant economic impact on the dairy industry. Affected animals can survive for years with no overt clinical signs, even though they appear to have a higher mortality and morbidity rate.

In 1975, a herd of FXI deficient animals was established at the University of Guelph (Canada) by identifying heifers that were carriers and breeding them to a carrier sire. This herd has proven to be invaluable in studying the genetics of the condition and its consequences for health and reproduction. Selective mating established its mode of transmission. Affected animals have less than 10 % of normal biological activity of plasma factor XI, with most having less than 1%. Carrier animals have from 20 to 60% of normal levels, with a mean value of $38 \pm 10\%$. While affected animals can survive for years with no overt clinical signs, they do appear to have, as a group, higher mortality and morbidity. They are often referred to as “poor doers”.

By using biochemical or genetic tests, the FXI deficiency was shown in Holstein cattle in the USA, Great Britain, Canada and Japan (Brush *et al.* 1987, Gentry *et al.* 1996, Marron *et al.* 2004, Ghanem *et al.* 2005). Marron *et al.* (2004) revealed that the molecular basis of coagulopathy in Holstein cattle is an insertion of a 76-bp adenine-rich fragment in exon 12 of the FXI gene. This insertion, composed of an imperfect poly-adenine tract [AT(A)28TAAAG(A)26G] followed by a duplicated region of the normal coding sequence [GAAATAATAATTCA], introduces a premature stop codon, which impairs the synthesis of functional protein.

Meydan *et al.* (2009) screened Holstein cows and study demonstrated that 4 out of the 225 Holstein cows tested in Turkey carried the FXI deficiency. Gurgul *et al.* (2009) tested 103 randomly selected cows, 28 cows with repeat breeding, and 9 cows with recurrent mastitis for the presence of an abnormal FXI allele. Three cows were diagnosed as carriers. Zhang *et al.* (2010) screened 576 Holstein cattle in China and found 2 carriers and one affected animal. Akyuz *et al.* (2012) compared the prevalence of FXI deficiency carriers in normally fertile and repeat breeder cows in Turkey. For this purpose, 161 Holstein cows were genotyped for the FXI gene mutation originating from various herds located in the Middle Anatolian region of Turkey. In the study, animals were divided into 2 groups – normally fertile (118) and repeat breeding (43) cows. Prevalence of the FXID carrier was found to be 0.85 and 2.33% in normally fertile and repeat breeder cows.

In India, Patel *et al.* (2007b) investigated the occurrence of FXI deficiency syndrome in Holstein-Friesian, Jersey, Indian cattle breeds, *B. taurus* × *B. indicus* crossbreds and the river buffalo *Bubalus bubalis*. A total of 1,001 dairy animals, mainly bulls, were genotyped to detect the mutation within gene encoding for factor XI. Two Holstein bulls were detected as heterozygous (carrier) for FXI deficiency, giving

a carrier frequency of 0.6% in Indian Holstein cattle. None of the other cattle was found to be a carrier for FXI. In a study carried by Azad *et al.* (2011) in India for screening of 253 Sahiwal cattle and 200 Karan-Fries cattle, none of the animal found affected or carrier.

Bovine citrullinaemia

Bovine citrullinaemia is a genetic disorder, which has been reported in Holstein cattle (Fesus *et al.* 1999). It has been established that bovine citrullinaemia is a consequence of a deficiency of argininosuccinate synthetase (ASS), one of the enzymes of the urea cycle. A deficiency of the urea cycle enzyme results in a lethal neurological disease in newly born calves. The urea cycle involves a series of biochemical steps in which nitrogen, a waste product of protein metabolism, is removed from the blood and converted to urea. The deficiency of ASS occurs when a calf inherits a copy of the mutant gene encoding for ASS from each parent. The gene is located on chromosome Number 11 (BTA11). The mutation is caused by a transition of cytosine to thymine at codon 86 within exon 5 in the gene coding for ASS leading to impaired enzyme, which cannot participate in urea cycle (Dennis *et al.* 1989). Calves affected with the disease appear normal immediately after birth. However, by the second day of life they become depressed and feed poorly. By the third day, they are often seen aimlessly wandering about their enclosure or standing with their head pressed against a fence or wall. Between day 3 and 5 the disease progresses rapidly. The calves appear to be blind and then they collapse. Death usually occurs within 12 hours of onset of these clinical signs (Healy *et al.* 1990). The clinical signs of citrullinaemia are believed to be as a consequence of accumulation of ammonia in the brain of the affected calves.

Bovine citrullinaemia was reported in Australia (Harper *et al.* 1986) and the mutation responsible traced to a North American sire named Greyview Crisscrossh, the semen of whose son Linmack Kriss King (LMKK) was used extensively in Australia (Healy *et al.* 1991). However, no carriers were found black and white cattle in Germany (Grupe *et al.* 1996), Korea (Lee *et al.* 2002), India (Patel *et al.* 2006), Czech Republic (Citek *et al.* 2006), Turkey (Oner *et al.* 2010, Sahin *et al.* 2013) and Iran (Eydivandi *et al.* 2012). Many carriers were detected in Australia (Healy *et al.* 1991), USA (Robinson *et al.* 1993), India (Muraleedharan *et al.* 1999), Hungary (Fesus *et al.* 1999), Taiwan (Lin *et al.* 2001b) and China (Mei *et al.* 2009, Li *et al.* 2011). In India, Gaur *et al.* (2012) performed analysis on a group of 120 Holstein bulls to identify carrier (heterozygous) animals. Two out of 120 (1.67%) animals were found carrier for bovine citrullinaemia. Sharma *et al.* (2013b) in their study found none of the Karan-Fries animal carrier for bovine citrullinaemia.

The genetic disease causes heavy losses because of poor animal performance; structural unsoundness reduces the production and reproductive potential of the animal. The massive spread of genetic defects like CVM and BLAD in

recent years is caused by the extensive use of elite carrier sires. Artificial insemination accelerates the spread of undesirable recessives world-wide. However, the new methods of molecular genetics enable us to find the cause at gene level. This makes it possible to detect heterozygous animals and to control the genetic health of the population. Use of molecular methods into animal research promises quick progress in animal potential. This review demonstrated cases of presence of disorders; BLAD, DUMPS, CVM, Bovine citrullinaemia and FXI in Holstein and Holstein crossbred population which could have been enough to spread unwanted gene in the population. If no cases are observed in routine investigation even then an extensive screening programs for detection of genetic disorders seems necessary to ensure the utilization of bulls free from genetic disorders for artificial insemination programmes in India.

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