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Fort Sherman Virus Infection in Human, Peru, 2020

Appendix

Materials and methods

Sampling

Serum samples were collected for the SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence Study in Peru in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Procedures were performed according to the approval of the Institutional Bioethics Committee VÍA LIBRE under protocol number 6528.

Molecular detection

For the screening testing for orthobunyavirus, a previously published broad reactive RT-PCR was used (*1*). The amplicon of the positive sample was sent for Sanger sequencing and then analyzed by BLASTN for virus identification. The FSV positive serum was then quantified by a real-time RT-PCR based on the viral polymerase gene using the primers FSHV-rtF (5′-TGTTGGTGATTGTGCATATATTGG), FSHV-rtR (5′- GGCGGACAACCATGTTTAATACT) and the probe FSHV-rtP (5′- ATCTAGCCAGTAGGTTATCTGCCACGCAGC), as previously published (*2*).

Sera were screened for the presence of dengue virus (DENV) using a commercial real-time RT-PCR (TIB Molbiol). Additional screening for other flaviviruses and alphaviruses was performed by broadly reactive nested RT-PCR, also using previously published tests (*3*,*4*).

Viral Isolation attempts

For virus isolation, monolayers of 1.6×10^5 cells per well were seeded in 12 well plates. The RT-PCR-positive serum was diluted at 1:10 and 1:100, inoculated into Vero E6, Vero FM, BHK and C6/36 cell lines, and incubated for 1 hour, as described previously (*2*). Cells were observed daily for 7 days for the presence of a cytopathic effect (CPE). After 7

days, cells were passaged, monitored daily and tested by real-time RT-PCR. Blind passages were repeated two times.

Evolutionary analysis

Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic trees were performed using translated amino acid sequences of all three coding sequences using MEGA X (*5*) and 1,000 bootstrap replicates, a WAG amino acid substitution model, and complete deletion of all positions containing gaps in the alignment. Amino acid and nucleotide pairwise sequence distances were calculated in MEGA X using a pairwise deletion of all positions containing gaps in the alignment. Additional information on the selected orthobunyaviruses reference sequences used to build phylogenetic trees and for the sequence distance comparisons is detailed in Appendix Table 1.

Sequencing

Primers for each genomic segment are available in Appendix Table 2.

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†Isolation or detection year.

‡The sequence release date was used when information was not available.

*FSV, Fort Sherman virus.

Month	Positives	Total	Frequency
January	4	14	28.6%
February	106	154	68.8%
March	120	194	61.9%
April	114	122	93.4%
May	24	31	77.4%
June	4	6	66.7%
July	18	27	66.7%
August	3	7	42.9%
September	2	2	100.0%
October	5	6	83.3%
November	4	14	28.6%
December	6	6	100.0%
Total	410	583	70.3%

Appendix Table 4. Evolutionary divergence between Fort Sherman virus from Peru and related orthobunyaviruses*

*Evolutionary analyses were performed using MEGA10 (Appendix, https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/article/30/10/24-0124-App1.pdf). N, indicates percent nucleotide sequence divergence of coding sequence; A indicates percent divergence of translated amino acid sequences. CVV, Cache Valley virus; FSV, Fort Sherman virus.

Appendix Figure. Detection rate of dengue virus by real-time RT-PCR among febrile patients in the Lambayeque department, Peru, in 2020. The red asterisk indicates the month a patient tested positive for FSV. The total number of sera tested per month is given in brackets.