

The TSE community reference laboratory strain typing expert group (STEG)

Summary of the STEG opinion on two caprine isolates (08-357 from France; G08-1469 from the UK) referred to the group following the identification of unusual molecular profiles on discriminatory Western blot (as required in EU Regulation 36/2005.)

Report drafted by MMS summarising the meeting (08/10/08 in Madrid) and the email consultation on available test data with the members of the STEG.

Executive Summary

Two cases were referred to the STEG following the identification, in each case, of a low molecular weight unglycosylated band in discriminatory Western blot.

A full ring trial was possible only for the UK case, and this was circulated in a blinded panel with 1 experimental goat BSE sample, and two classical scrapie caprine samples from the same farm as the suspect.

Fixed material was not collected from the French case, thereby precluding discriminatory immunohistochemistry. Data from this case has been reviewed from Western blot (AFSSA) and ELISA (CEA) testing.

Absence of conformity of interpretation with the full panel of test results in the ring trial of the UK case (see table) means that it does not fully concur with the 'BSE cannot be excluded' outcome of the primary differential screening blot, but equally it does not conform to classical scrapie either.

Case no	08-357	G08-1469
Discriminatory WB (AFSSA)	CH 1641-like scrapie	Not done
Discriminatory WB (VLA)	Not done	BSE cannot be excluded
Discriminatory blot (CEA)	Not done	BSE cannot be excluded
ELISA	Scrapie-like	BSE cannot be excluded
Discriminatory IHC	Not done	Variable depending on lab. Intermediate ¹

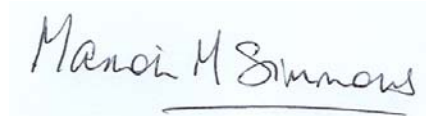
Conclusion

The conclusions of the group, based on the data currently available, are as follows.

The data from ELISA and WB suggests that the French sample is not BSE, since it does not conform to our expectations based on currently available data from experimental caprine BSE.

For the UK sample, there is insufficient evidence to rule out the presence of BSE and the current data differ from the great majority of classical scrapie isolates, and the small number of caprine BSE isolates seen to date.

Further investigations, including mouse bioassays, are recommended in the UK case. Preliminary results could be anticipated within 2 years from initiation of bioassays.



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On behalf of the EU CRL for TSE (STEG)

8th October 2008

¹ The result does not consistently fit the criteria for 'BSE cannot be excluded' by this 'test', nor does it match those for classical scrapie isolates. It also does not share the properties of 'atypical' scrapie, as defined in the EFSA Opinion.