

Yeast display platform technology to prepare oral vaccine against lethal H7N9 virus challenge in mice

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Abstract

Background Existing methods for preparing influenza vaccines pose the greatest challenge against the threat of highly pandemic avian influenza virus H7N9 outbreak in the poultry and human. Exploring a new strategy for manufacturing and delivering a safe and effective H7N9 vaccine is urgently needed.

Results An alternative approach, proposed here, is to develop influenza an oral H7N9 vaccine based on yeast display technology in a timely manner. Hemagglutinin (HA) of A/Anhui/1/2013 (AH-H7N9) as a model antigen and characterized its expression on the surface of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (*S.cerevisiae*) EBY 100. Mice orally administrated with *S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5-HA produced significant titers of IgG antibody as well as significant amounts of cytokines IFN- γ and IL-4. Importantly, *S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5-HA could provide complete immune protection against homologous A/Anhui/1/2013 (AH-H7N9) virus challenge.

Conclusion Our findings suggest that platform based on yeast surface technology provides an alternative approach to prepare a promising influenza H7N9 vaccine candidate that can significantly shorten the preparedness period and result in effective protection against influenza A pandemic.

Keywords: *S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5-HA, Yeast display technology, Influenza A pandemic.

Full-text

Due to technical limitations, full-text HTML conversion of this manuscript could not be completed. However, the manuscript can be downloaded and accessed as a PDF.

Figures

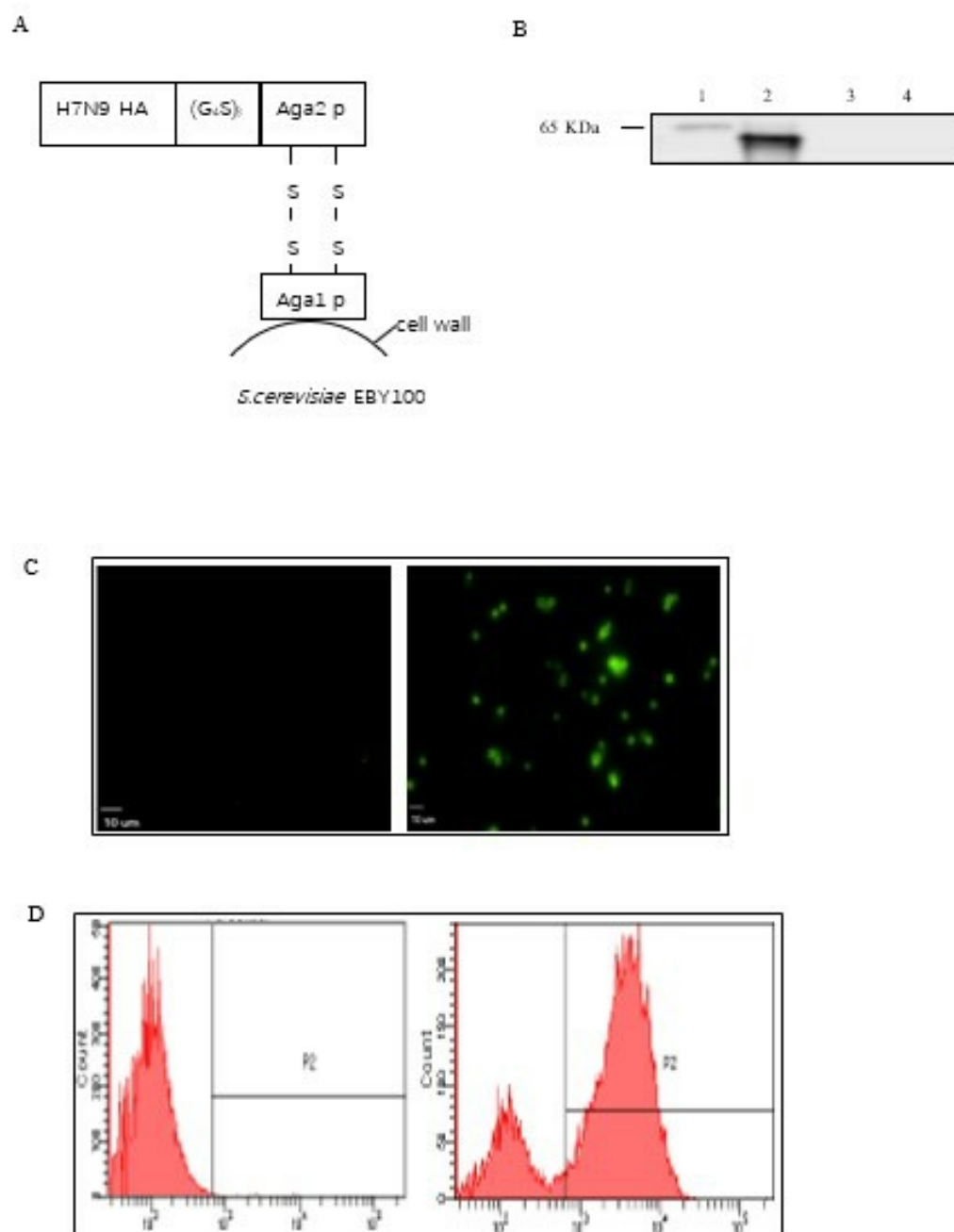


Figure 1

Construction of yeast display vector and analysis of the expression of HA protein. (A) 1 Schematic diagram of yeast expression vector (*S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5-HA) which the displayed 2 protein (HA) was tethered at its C-terminus to Aga2p mating protein through a (G4S)₃ linker. (B) Western 3 blotting analysis. Lane 1: HA glycoprotein. Lane 2: Deglycosylation of HA protein. Lane 3: *S.cerevisiae* 4 EBY100/pYD5 control. Lane 4: Deglycosylation of *S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5. (C) Immunofluorescence 5 microscope, *S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5 (left) and *S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5-HA (right) (magnification 6 400 ×). (D) Flow cytometric analysis, *S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5 (left) and *S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5-7 HA (right).

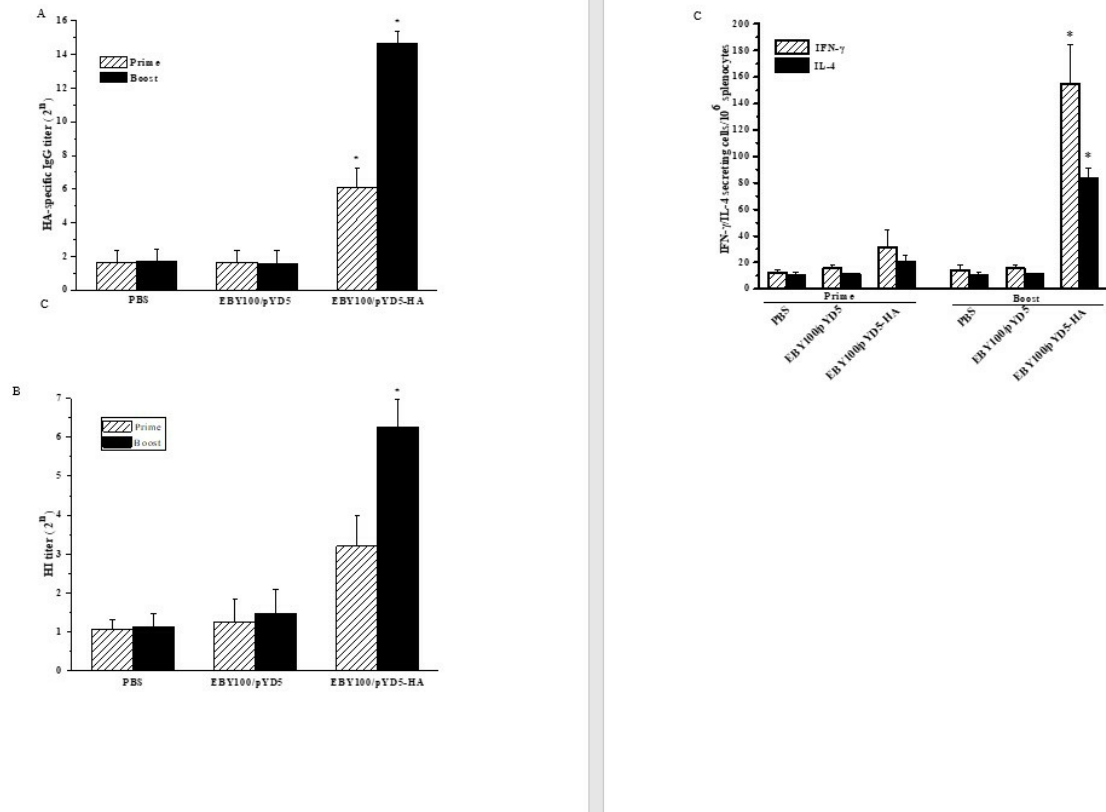


Figure 2

Antibody response detected by ELISA and Hemagglutination inhibition (HI) assay. (A) HA - 10 specific IgG titers. (B) HI titers. (C) The cellular immune responses were assayed by ELISpot assay. 11 Splenocytes derived from vaccination (n=3/group) were incubated on the IFN-γ or IL-4 capture antibody 12 coated with stimulation of HA peptide. IFN-γ and IL-4 spots were counted. The data are presented as mean $13 \pm$ standard deviation (SD). Asterisk indicates statistical significance compared to *S.cerevisiae* 14 EBY100/pYD5 and PBS groups ($p < 0.05$).

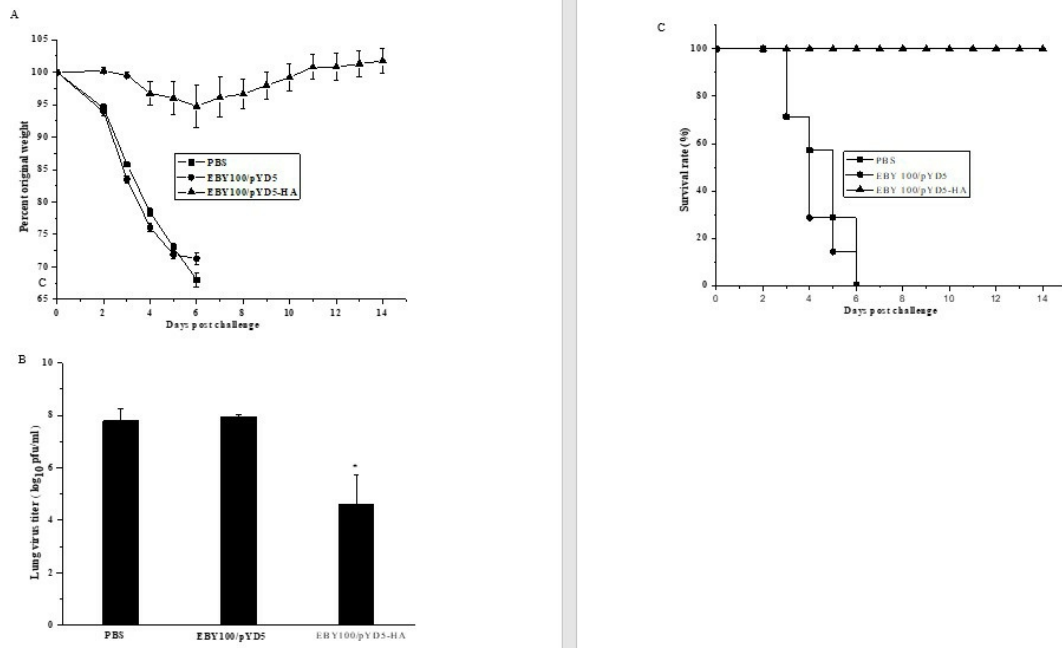


Figure 3

Immune protection conferred by *S.cerevisiae* EBY100/pYD5-HA against lethal H7N9 virus 18 challenge. Mice were intranasally challenged with a lethal dose ($10 \times \text{LD}_{50}$) of A/Anhui/1/2013 (AH-19 H7N9) virus at 2 weeks after the final immunization ($n=10/\text{group}$).

(A) Weight change as a percentage. 20 Bars indicate SDs. (B) Lung viral titers were determined by a plaque assay at day 3 after challenge ($n=3$ of 21 10 challenged mice). (C) Survival rate. Asterisk indicates significant difference compared to *S.cerevisiae* 22 EBY100/pYD5 and PBS groups ($p < 0.05$).