

## IMMUNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF BOVINE LEUKEMIA

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**Summary.** Bovine leukemia virus (BLV) is the causative agent of enzootic bovine leukosis. BLV is an exogenous replication component retrovirus, which essentially infects and transforms B lymphocytes. BLV infection may remain clinically silent transformed into an aleukemic state. BLV effects both the humoral and the cellular immune response. Cows affected by enzootic bovine leukemia showed a reduction in immunoglobulin production and their responsiveness to newly encountered antigens demented. We report here the immune status of BLV infected cattle and discuss the strategy of developing vaccines.

**Keywords:** bovine leukemia virus (BLV), lymphocytes, immunoglobulins, antibodies.

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