

Your ref: MPL-6197-7-37

Our ref: FT1294

This is the FINAL report for contract MPL-6197-7-37 *The testing of the Belgian (Vermont) sheep.*

Background

Brain homogenate (10% in normal saline) from each case was inoculated intracerebrally into panels of 20 RIII and 20 Tg338 mice.

FT1294/0001 (Sample 4677) was inoculated into mice on the 14/12/06

FT1294/0011 (Sample 4703) was inoculated into mice on the 20/12/06

Method

The brain from each mouse was examined histologically for any evidence of TSE-related vacuolation, and immunolabelled using anti-PrP antibody Rb486 as described elsewhere¹. All slide interpretation was undertaken blind with regard to the clinical status of the mouse, or the source of the inoculum.

Final bioassay results

FT1294/0001 (Sample 4677)

- Tg338 mice – All 20 mice are negative by histopathology, and immunohistochemistry
- RIII mice – All 20 mice are negative by histopathology, and immunohistochemistry

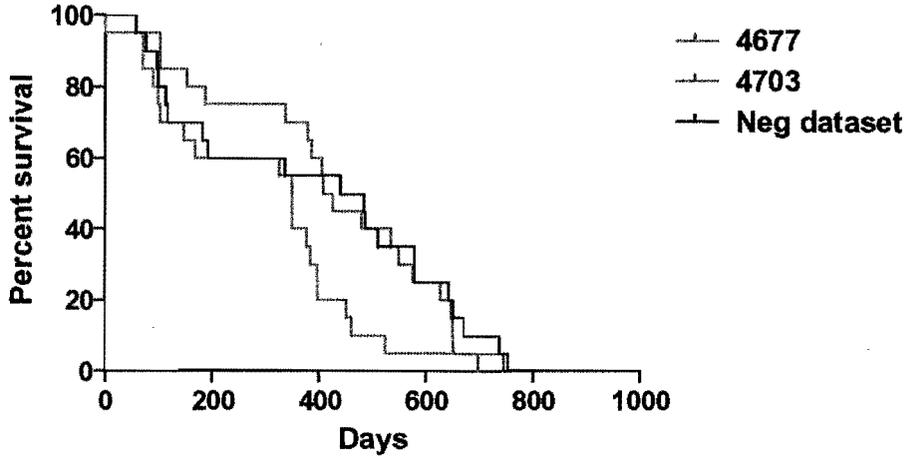
FT1294/0011 (Sample 4703)

- Tg338 mice – All 20 mice are negative by histopathology, and immunohistochemistry
- RIII mice – All 20 mice are negative by histopathology, and immunohistochemistry

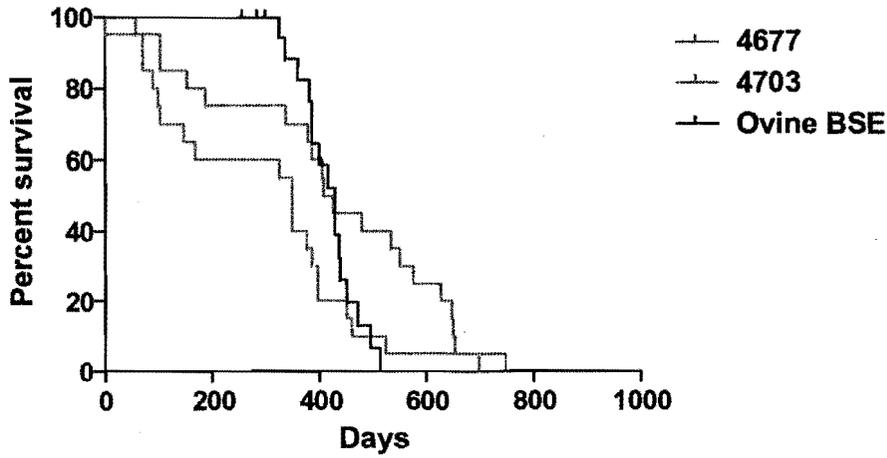
The survival times for these mice can be seen in the figures below. Additional data sets from positive and negative inocula (J Spiropoulos, pers. comm.) have been included for comparison.

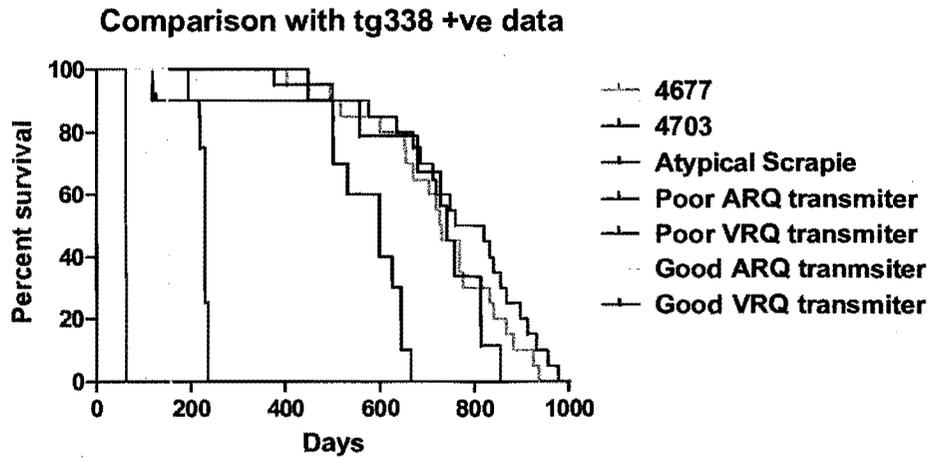
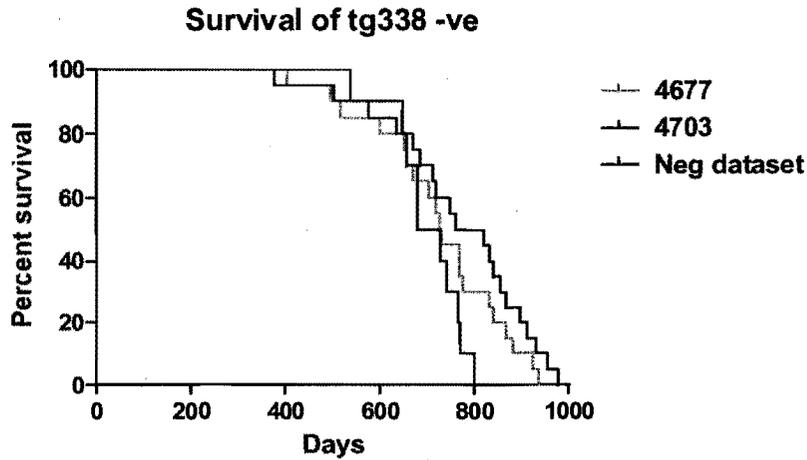
¹ Beck KE, Chaplin M, Stack M, Sallis RE, Simonini S, Lockey R, Spiropoulos J. Lesion Profiling at Primary Isolation in RIII Mice Is Insufficient in Distinguishing BSE from Classical Scrapie. Brain Pathol. 2009 epub ahead of print

Survival of RII



Comparison with RII +ve data





Conclusion

These mice have survived for long enough to have demonstrated the presence of classical scrapie, atypical scrapie or ovine BSE if any of these strains was present in the inoculum.

Both samples are **negative** by bioassay.

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22nd October 2009