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4 **Molecular Detection of Canine Distemper Virus among Dogs Showing**  
5 **Neurologic and Non-Neurologic Forms of Disease**  
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21 **Running title**

22 Molecular Detection of Canine Distemper Virus among Dogs

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26  
27 **Abstract**

28 **Background:** Canine distemper (CD) is one of the most contagious and lethal viral diseases in dogs.  
29 Despite the widespread use of vaccines to control CD, the prevalence of the CD virus (CDV) has  
30 increased at an alarming rate in recent years. **Objective:** To identify the genotypes responsible for the  
31 neurological and non-neurological clinical forms of canine distemper and to investigate the presence of  
32 the virus in the neurological and non-neurological forms of the disease. **Materials and methods:** In this  
33 descriptive-analytical study, samples were collected from 70 CD suspected unvaccinated dogs with  
34 clinical symptoms of distemper. All cases were first tested with rapid tests and then separated into 3

35 different groups based on clinical symptoms. CSF, respiratory secretion, and fecal samples of all 40 cases  
36 were examined for reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). After sequencing the  
37 hemagglutinin gene (H gene), phylogenetic analysis of the H gene of isolated CDVs was carried out using  
38 MEGA™ 7 software. **Results:** The analysis of RT-PCR results showed that the respiratory secretion  
39 sample in the non-neurological CDV group (85%) and the neurological CDV group (80%) had the highest  
40 level of virus contamination, but in the non-neurological CDV group, the CSF sample (40%) had a high  
41 level of infection. In neurotic groups, ages over 12 months showed the highest percentage of distemper  
42 contamination, and in the Non-neurologic CDV group, ages 3 to 6 months were more involved.  
43 Sequencing and phylogenetic analysis of the H gene revealed the CDV to be a member of the endemic  
44 Arctic-like genetic lineage. **Conclusion:** The results of this study indicated that genotypic examination of  
45 the hemagglutinin gene of the distemper virus revealed that the recent isolates are closely similar in both  
46 neurologic and non-neurologic clinical forms of CDV in Iran. In positive rapid test cases, the PCR test of  
47 Respiratory secretions for detection of the virus is the most sensitive. In neurologic cases which has  
48 negative rapid test results, PCR of CSF had the highest sensitivity, so can be a diagnostic solution.

49 Key word: Distemper, Dog, Hemagglutinin, CSF, Neurologic, Non-Neurologic

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## 51 **Introduction**

52 Distemper is a fatal contagious viral disease in dogs and other species, such as raccoons, ferrets, otters,  
53 pandas, and skunks (Namroodi, Rostami, Ardebili, & Langroudi, 2014). The canine distemper virus

54 (CDV) is a single-stranded RNA virus of the Morbillivirus genus and the Paramyxoviridae family. CDV  
55 is an enveloped virus that is highly susceptible to chemical disinfectants (Bi *et al.*, 2015). CDV only has  
56 one serotype; however, based on genetic variability of membrane glycoproteins, 17 major genotypes  
57 have been reported, including America-1 to 5, South America-1 to 3, Asia-1 to 4, Europe Wildlife, Arctic,  
58 South Africa, America-1/Europe, and Rockborn-like (Loots *et al.*, 2017).

59 The severity of disease and clinical symptoms depends on multiple factors, including virus strain,  
60 immunity, and host age (Hornsey *et al.*, 2019). In general, CDV infection disease could be classified into  
61 two major clinical forms: (a) non-neurologic CDV in which clinical symptoms include fever, yellow or  
62 green discharge from the eyes and nose, cough, dyspnea, depression, lethargy and anorexia, diarrhea, and  
63 vomiting without any neurologic symptoms (Zhao and Yanrong, 2022; Hornsey *et al.*, 2019); (b)  
64 neurologic CDV, with neurological disorders, including abnormal behaviors, chewing gum, seizures,  
65 blindness, paresis and paralysis, imbalance and rotation (Hornsey *et al.*, 2019).

66 CDV genome is composed of six genes encoding eight proteins: 2 non-structural proteins (C and V) and  
67 six structural proteins (nucleocapsid protein, matrix protein, phosphoprotein, large protein, and two  
68 membrane glycoproteins known as hemagglutinin (H) protein) (da Fontoura Budaszewski & Von  
69 Messling, 2016; Valencia *et al.*, 2019). H protein is responsible for binding the virus to the host cell  
70 (Rendon-Marin *et al.*, 2019). It also stimulates the host's immune system, leading to a protective response  
71 against the virus (Rendon-Marin *et al.*, 2019). The highest level of mutation occurs in the H gene (Wang  
72 *et al.*, 2020). Thus, designing specific primers targeting the H gene make it possible to differentiate the  
73 field CDV lineages (Rendon-Marin *et al.*, 2019).

74 Practical diagnosis of canine distemper is primarily based on clinical suspicion. Also, the rapid CDV Ag  
75 test kit is highly preferred by clinicians due to it is a simple, rapid, and feasible method in most  
76 laboratories and can detect distemper virus in the conjunctiva, urine, serum, or plasma with a high degree  
77 of accuracy. CDV antigen rapid test has shown excellent sensitivity (98%) and specificity (98.5%)  
78 compared to other methods (Costa *et al.*, 2019; Saaed & Alsarhan, 2022). In our study we used bionote  
79 (Woodley equipment) rapid test kit with sensitivity of 100 % and specificity of 98.5% in comparison to  
80 the nested PCR. However, the most definitive method for diagnosing distemper is amplifying conserved  
81 specific genes, such as the neuraminidase (NP) gene by PCR (Ricci *et al.*, 2021). In this case, the  
82 researchers reported that the conserved nucleoprotein (NP) gene is considered to be a better target for  
83 amplification of specific fragments from all strains of CDV (Namroodi *et al.*, 2013; Wang *et al.*, 2020).

84 There are few epidemiological data about the CDV lineages in Iran; most studies have focused on the  
85 prevalence of CDV among rural dogs in Iran (Avizeh, Shapouri, & Akhlaghi, 2007; Somayeh Namroodi  
86 *et al.*, 2015; Sarchahi & Arbabi, 2022; Tavakoli Zaniani *et al.*, 2021). However, our understanding of the  
87 molecular prevalence of CDV in different forms of the disease and the genetic variability of CDVs  
88 inducing neurologic and non-neurologic forms of the disease are limited. Therefore, this study was  
89 designed to investigate the difference between the molecular prevalence of CDV in dogs with non-  
90 neurologic and neurologic forms of Distemper. We also performed phylogenetic analysis to evaluate the  
91 genetic similarities between non-neurologic and neurologic CDV.

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## 94 **Material and methods**

### 95 **Target population**

96 The target population consisted of dogs referred to veterinary hospitals in Tehran from October 2020 to  
97 September 2021. A total of 70 dogs with clinical signs of CDV without vaccination history were included  
98 in this study. CDV rapid test was conducted for all animals using CDV rapid antigen kit (Woodly  
99 equipment company LTD., UK) based on the kit manufacturer's instruction. With respect to the initial  
100 clinical examination and rapid kit results, 40 animals were grouped into three classes: (Group 1) animals  
101 with positive kit results but without neurological clinical signs were classified as the "non-neurologic  
102 CDV" group. These animals mainly showed gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms, including  
103 anorexia, diarrhea, vomiting, coughing, dyspnea, pneumonia, and nasal and ocular discharge (N = 20);  
104 (Group 2) animals with neurologic symptoms and positive kit results were classified as the "neurologic  
105 CDV" group (N = 10). Neurological signs included chewing gum, muscle tics, seizure, paralysis, circling,  
106 and blindness; (Group 3) animals with neurologic symptoms and negative kit results were classified as the  
107 "neurologic non-CDV" group (N = 10).

### 108 **Sampling**

109 Samples were collected from CSF fluid, nasal-conjunctive secretion, and stool of all animals. Samples  
110 were obtained using a sterile swab from the nasal canal and conjunctive secretions. Also, stool samples

111 were collected using a sterile swab. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples were collected based on the  
112 cisternal puncture method (Suzuki & Ferrario, 1984). Therefore, CSF samples were collected using a  
113 sterile syringe (gage22) from the cerebellomedullary cistern under complete anesthesia. Then, they were  
114 immediately transferred to -20° C (Pouramini et al., 2017).

### 115 **RT-PCR**

116 To detect CDV, the N gene was targeted using CDV-N primers (Table 1). Moreover, in positive samples,  
117 the H gene segment of the virus was amplified for phylogenetic analysis using CDV-H primers (Table 1).  
118 RNA was extracted from clinical samples using an RNA extraction kit (Bioneer Co, Korea) following the  
119 manufacturer's instruction and was stored at -80 °C. Extracted RNA was reverse-transcribed into cDNA  
120 using a two-step RT-PCR kit (Vivantis, Malaysia) providing the manufacturer's recommended reaction  
121 conditions. PCR reaction was performed in a final volume of 20 µl including 10 µl of Mastermix  
122 (Vivantis, Malaysia), 0.5 µl of each primer (10mM), 2 µl of template DNA, and 7 µl of deionized water.  
123 The PCR amplification was performed under the following conditions: initial denaturation at 95°C for  
124 1min, followed by denaturation at 95°C for 1 min, annealing at 47°C for 1min and elongation at 72°C for  
125 1min (35 cycles), and a final extension at 72°C for 10 min. After amplification, 5µl of the reaction  
126 mixture was transferred to 1% agarose gel .

### 127 **Sequencing and phylogenetic analysis**

128 PCR products of the H gene were Purified using a PCR Purification kit (Bioneer, Korea). Purified  
129 amplicons were sequenced using ABI 313 DNA sequencing instruments (Seq Lab Co, Germany). Editing

130 and analysis of the raw DNA sequence was performed using BioEdit software, (a free software sequence  
131 analysis program developed by Tom Hall at North Carolina State University). Sequences were compared  
132 with CDV sequences deposited in the GenBank using BLAST software (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>).  
133 Eventually, nucleotide sequences were submitted to the GenBank database  
134 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>). H gene sequences of 13 CDV isolates obtained from this analysis along  
135 with 37 collected sequences from the Genbank were used for phylogenetic analysis using MEGA  
136 software v.11 (Sohpal, Dey, & Singh, 2010). Hemagglutinin gene sequences of four distemper virus  
137 vaccines including Vaccine A (Accession: FJ461701.1, GI: 239949421), Vaccine B (Accession:  
138 FJ461709.1, GI: 239949437), Vaccine C (Accession: FJ461708.1, GI: 239949435) and Vaccine E  
139 (Accession: FJ461710.1, GI: 239949439) were also added to the data. Internal node uncertainty was  
140 assessed through 500 bootstrap replications. Subsequently, the aligned H gene sequences were then used  
141 to construct the phylogenetic tree based on neighbor-joining and maximum likelihood methods(Nikbakht,  
142 Jamshidi, & Mohyedini, 2018).

### 143 **Statistical analysis**

144 The statistical analyses were performed using SPSS software (version 19). A chi-square test was used to  
145 investigate the difference between the molecular prevalence of CDV between non-neurologic CDV and  
146 neurologic CDV, as well as between nervous CDV and neurologic non-CDV groups. We also assessed  
147 the effects of gender and sex on the molecular prevalence in different groups using Spearman's test. A *P*-  
148 value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.



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## 153 **Results**

### 154 **RT-PCR**

155 The population of dogs was divided into three different groups non- neurologic CDV (Group 1),  
156 neurologic CDV (Group 2), and the neurologic non-CDV (Group 3), based on the results of the CDV Ag  
157 rapid test and clinical signs (Table 2). Overall, out of 40 dogs, 29 (72.5%) dogs carried the distemper  
158 virus-specific gene (Fig 1). Among different groups, group 1 had the most positive samples (85.0%),  
159 followed by group 2 (80.0%) and group 3 (40.0%). In group1 and group 2, among the positive samples,  
160 respiratory secretions had significantly higher virus infection with frequencies of 75% ( $P$ -value = 0.021)  
161 and 70% ( $P$ -value =0.033), respectively. In contrast, in group 3, CSF sample had significantly higher  
162 frequency (40.0%) among positive samples ( $P$ -value = 0.041) (Table 2). In group 1, the infection being  
163 more in the age of 3-6 months ( $P$ -value = 0.031), but in group 2 ( $P$ -value = 0.022) and group 3 ( $P$ -value =  
164 0.036), ages over 12 months had the highest rate of distemper infection (Table 3).

165 In the comparison of groups 1 and 2, the frequency of CDV was not significantly different ( $P$ -value >  
166 0.05) (Table 2). Among the positive samples, the frequency of CSF positive samples in group 2 (40.0%)  
167 was significantly higher than that in group 1 (20.0%) ( $P$ -value = 0.038). There was no significant  
168 difference in other types of samples ( $P$ -value > 0.05) (Table 2). The frequency of CDV positive samples  
169 among genders in groups 1 and 2 was comparable (Table 2) and no significant differences were observed  
170 between the CDV frequencies between the two groups ( $P$ -value > 0.05). Age-wise prevalence study  
171 between the two groups revealed that group 1, ages 3-6 months ( $P$ -value = 0.031), and group 2, ages over  
172 12 months ( $P$ -value = 0.018) had the highest rate of distemper infection (Table 3).

173 In comparison between groups 2 and 3, the number of positive cases in group 2 (80.0 %) was higher than  
174 in group 3 (40.0%) (Table 2). Among positive samples, the frequency of positive fecal ( $P$ -value = 0.031)  
175 and respiratory secretion samples ( $P$ -value = 0.034) was significantly lower in group 3 than those in  
176 group 2. However, the frequency of CSF-positive samples was not significantly different ( $P$ -value >  
177 0.05). The frequency of CDV-positive samples among genders between groups 1 and 2 was similar  
178 (Table 2) and no significant difference was observed between the groups ( $P$ -value > 0.05). Also, there  
179 was no significant difference in the prevalence of the virus between different ages ( $P$ -value > 0.05).

### 180 **Sequencing and Phylogenetic analysis**

181 To perform the phylogenetic analysis, the H gene of 13 samples was amplified (Fig 1) and sequenced.  
182 Sequences were analyzed using the BLAST search program (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>) and  
183 partial H gene sequences were submitted to GenBank (accession numbers: Ok247544, Ok247545,

184 Ok247546, Ok247547, Ok247548, Ok247549, Ok247550, Ok247551, Ok247552, Ok247553, Ok247554,  
185 Ok247555, Ok247556). Phylogenetic analysis showed that all strains of CDV isolated belong to the  
186 Arctic virus-like genetic lineage. Sequence analysis detected 92.1% similarity between Iranian H  
187 sequences gene and all of them were located in the same cluster (Fig 2). Disregarding Iranian isolates, a  
188 high similarity was observed between our samples and those from Russia (FURO310, FURO188,  
189 FURO192, and Pt79H). Also, all four vaccines A, B, C, and E were very different from recent isolates in  
190 terms of H gene sequence and were placed in a separate cluster.

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## 195 **Discussion**

196 Distemper is a deadly and contagious disease in dogs and other species including raccoons, ferrets, otters,  
197 pandas and big cats (Martinez-Gutierrez & Ruiz-Saenz, 2016). Dogs are the largest group of carnivores  
198 that can contract distemper (Martinez-Gutierrez & Ruiz-Saenz, 2016). Moreover, they are the main  
199 reservoir of distemper virus (Costa *et al.*, 2019; Martinez-Gutierrez & Ruiz-Saenz, 2016). Considering  
200 that this virus has different genotypes that can cause different clinical symptoms in dogs and since the  
201 relationship between virus genotypes in causing different clinical symptoms in dogs has not been studied

202 so far (Chen *et al.*, 2018). For this purpose, in the present study it has been tried to compare the  
203 prevalence of the virus in different samples in non-neurologic and neurologic CDV forms, and also the  
204 effect of the type of virus in causing the disease form has been investigated using genotyping.

#### 205 **Within groups analyses**

206 Examining the presence of the CDV in the samples of the groups showed that in both neurologic CDV  
207 and non- neurologic CDV groups, the presence of distemper-specific genes in respiratory secretions was  
208 much higher than in stool and CSF samples, and this is probably due to the tissue affinity of the CDV to  
209 the respiratory system (Nicholls *et al.*, 2007; Pratakpiriya *et al.*, 2017). In this case, Pratakpiriya *et al*  
210 (2017) reported that CDV propagates in the respiratory tract epithelium, using nectin-4 (also known as  
211 poliovirus-like receptor protein-4 (PVRL4) as a receptor (Pratakpiriya *et al.*, 2017). Also, the results of  
212 the PCR test showed that the CSF samples in the dogs of the neurologic non-CDV group were similar to  
213 the samples of the neurologic CDV group, and the presence of the virus in the CSF samples of both  
214 groups was 40%. Since in the neurologic non-CDV group, the CSF sample had the highest level of virus  
215 contamination, it can be inferred that the presence of the virus is related to the occurrence of neurological  
216 symptoms, and the neurologic forms of the CSF sample are suitable for virus detection. To the best of our  
217 knowledge, no studies have been yet performed on the relationship between neural form and the presence  
218 of the virus in specific tissues, and this issue is raised for the first time. In this case alone, the study by  
219 Gabriella *et al.* (2006) reported that urine, tonsils, conjunctival swabs, and whole blood contained high  
220 viral loads in the acute form of distemper (Martella *et al.*, 2007).

221 Examining the presence of the virus in different ages of dogs showed that in the non- neurologic CDV  
222 group, ages 3 to 6 months are at risk of distemper ( $P$ -value = 0.031). Studies have shown that an  
223 immature immune system in puppies is a possible reason for their high rate of infection, especially  
224 between 3 and 6 months of age when maternal antibodies in puppies declines (Baumgärtner *et al.*, 1995).  
225 On the other hand, Kauffman *et al* (1982) reported that 3-6-month-old dogs are more susceptible to  
226 distemper than other age dogs due to the reduced replacement and repair ability of lymphocytes  
227 (Kauffman *et al.*, 1982). In this regard, the researchers showed that especially the infection of young  
228 animals may be related to the virus-specific receptors in the immune system. In other words, the  
229 distemper virus receptors such as signaling lymphocyte activation molecule (SLAM) in young dogs were  
230 far more than in old dogs, and this led to their high infection (Tatsuo, Ono, & Yanagi, 2001; Volkan  
231 Yilmaz *et al.*, 2022). In agreement with our study, Józwik & Frymus (2002) showed that 72% of dogs  
232 tested for distemper virus were younger than 1 year of age (Józwik & Frymus, 2002). We found that the  
233 neurological form was more pronounced at older ages, which is consistent with the findings of previous  
234 studies (Hall, Imagawa, & Choppin, 1979; Headley *et al.*, 2009). Studies have shown that young dogs are  
235 more susceptible to distemper virus and after the apparent recovery, the agent remains in a series of  
236 organs such as the iris, central nervous system, and plantar fascia, and in old age when the immune  
237 system is weakened, nervous involvement appears (Galán *et al.*, 2014; Headley *et al.*, 2009).

### 238 **Between groups analyses**

239 As depicted in Table 1, the frequency of the detection of CDV in Non-neurologic CDV and neurologic  
240 CDV were significantly higher than in the neurologic non-CDV group. This finding points to the

241 importance of the rapid distemper test method and shows that the probability of the molecular distemper  
242 test being negative is high if the results of other tests are negative. The prevalence of distemper virus  
243 based on PCR test in the CSF sample was higher in the neurologic CDV and neurologic non-CDV groups  
244 than in the Non-neurologic CDV group. This finding shows that neurological symptoms had a significant  
245 relationship with the presence of the virus in the CSF samples, and on the other hand, the CSF sample is a  
246 suitable target for the diagnosis of CDV in neurological form. In this case, Amude *et al* (2007) also  
247 reported that the assessment of cerebrospinal fluid can be more appropriate in the diagnosis of distemper  
248 disease in its neurological form (Amude, Alfieri, & Alfieri, 2007). Interestingly, we found a significantly  
249 higher CDV detection in the respiratory secretions of the neurologic CDV group compared to the  
250 neurologic non-CDV group. This finding indicates that respiratory secretions are highly reliable when  
251 even rapid distemper test results are negative. It is noteworthy that inhibitors sometimes reduce the  
252 sensitivity of the rapid test or even lead to false negative results (Wilkes *et al.*, 2014). In the study of  
253 Yilmaz *et al.* (2022), the contamination of different dog samples was investigated using the RT-PCR  
254 method, and viral nucleic acid was detected at higher rates in the nasal swabs, compared to the other  
255 samples (V Yilmaz *et al.*, 2022). In their study, the samples were taken from dogs under one year old, and  
256 CDV was detected mostly in the respiratory secretion samples, which was in concordance with our  
257 results. Sarchahi *et al.* (2022) also showed that for the diagnosis of CDV by RT-PCR in dogs with  
258 neurological symptoms, whole blood and mucosal swabs are not suitable samples while CSF is much  
259 more suitable (Sarchahi & Arbabi, 2022). There was no significant difference in CDV prevalence  
260 between genders which is in agreement with previous studies (Cattet *et al.*, 2004).

261 **Phylogenetic study**

262 Virus typing is important in many aspects, to identify different genotypes that lead to neurologic or non-  
263 neurologic forms, identify the virus location and its dominant type in the region, and also show the origin  
264 of the expanded genes to some extent in the microbial population (Namroodi, Rezaie, & Milanlou, 2017).  
265 The sequencing-based method is one of the molecular methods used to classify microorganisms. In the  
266 SLST method, a target gene is usually sequenced among the isolates and the isolates are classified based  
267 on the nucleotide sequence (Ahmed & Alp, 2015; Zhang *et al.*, 2021). In our study, epidemiological  
268 investigations on isolates were performed based on the H gene and Sequence analysis of the H gene, and  
269 dendrogram mapping showed that there was no difference between viruses isolated from the non-  
270 neurologic form and the neurologic form and that they were all in the same cluster. Phylogenetic analysis  
271 of 14 distemper viruses showed that all isolates were embedded in the Arctic cluster. Since the closest  
272 strains recorded in the NCBI Database were strains previously reported from Russia, the latter strains are  
273 likely to have originated in Russia. In this case, in a study conducted by Namroodi *et al* (2015) in Iran, it  
274 was shown that distemper virus isolates are located in the Arctic and European lineages and were  
275 probably transferred from Turkey to Iran (Somayeh Namroodi *et al.*, 2015).

276 One of the objectives of genetic studies is to evaluate the changes in the strains of this virus in the region  
277 compared to the vaccines used to compare the overlap of the vaccine and the dominant strain in the region  
278 because, in the case of high changes in the strains, new vaccines with high similarity and overlap should  
279 be produced and used. In the present study, the degree of compatibility and similarity between the four  
280 vaccines A, B, C, and E was 20 percent with the recent strains. In a case study by Mochizuki *et al.* (1999)

281 in Japan, hemagglutinin (H) genes obtained from current vaccines and clinical isolates of distemper virus  
282 were genetically analyzed and the results revealed that two genotypes of distemper virus are circulating  
283 among dogs in Japan, which are highly genetically different from vaccine strains (Mochizuki *et al.*,  
284 1999). These findings led to the development of new high-performance vaccines to include all new  
285 genotypes. In contrast, in a study by Zhao *et al.* (2010), three genotypes of distemper virus were detected  
286 in China, of which the Asia-1 genotype was the most common, and all three genotypes were 90% similar  
287 to the vaccines used in that country. Our results suggest that the low similarity between wild and vaccine  
288 isolates might affect the efficacy of the applied vaccines. In other words, the probable reason for the high  
289 number of positive cases of the distemper virus in Iran might be the high genotypic difference between  
290 the recent strains and the mentioned vaccines. Therefore, studies with larger samples size covering more  
291 geographical regions are suggested.

## 292 **Conclusion**

293 In this study, we showed that molecular techniques could be used to detect CDV in both neurologic and  
294 non- neurologic forms of Distemper. However, respiratory secretions in both neurologic and non-  
295 neurologic forms are of great importance for the diagnosis. In neurologic cases with negative rapid test  
296 results, PCR of CSF samples had the highest sensitivity; therefore, it could be a diagnostic solution for  
297 suspected cases. Genotypic analysis of the hemagglutinin gene of the distemper virus showed that the  
298 recent isolates are very similar in both neurological and non-neurological clinical forms of CDV in Iran.



299 Since all 13 isolates are located in polar clusters and are very similar to the strains obtained in Russia,  
300 there is a possibility of its transfer from Russia to Iran

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444 **Table 1:** Primers used to amplify the nucleoprotein (NP) and hemagglutinin (H) genes.

Gene	Primers	Sequence (5' to 3')	Amplicon size (bp)	Reference
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H	H-F	F-ATGCTCTCTTACCAAGACAA	1824	(Chen et al., 2018)
	H-R	R-GGCACGCAAGACCTCAACCT		
NP	N-F	F-TCCCCTGGACAGTTGATCCA	491	
	N-R	R-TTCCCTGGGGATCGTTTGAT		

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Table 2: Frequency of distemper virus among different study groups based on PCR test

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Groups	Number of dogs carrying the virus (%)	PCR +		
		Feces (%) <sup>‡</sup>	Respiratory secretions (%) <sup>‡</sup>	CSF (%) <sup>§</sup>
Non-neurologic CDV (n = 20)	17 (85.0%)	9 (45.0%)	15 (75.0%)*	4 (20.0%)
neurologic CDV (n = 10)	8 (80.0%)	6 (60.0%)	7 (70.0%)*	4 (40.0%)

neurologic non-CDV (n = 10)	4 (40.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (20.0%)	4 (40.0%)*
Total (n = 40)	29 (72.5%)	15 (51.7%)	24 (82.9%)	12 (41.4%)

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466 \*Significantly different within group (p-value < 0.05).

467 § Significant different between non- neurologic CDV and neurologic CDV groups (p-value < 0.05).

468 ‡ Significant different between neurologic CDV and neurologic non-CDV groups (p-value < 0.05).

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476 **Table 3:** Frequency of CDV positive animals based on PCR test among different genders and age classes.

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Number of dogs carrying the virus	PCR + (n = 29)					
	Gender		Age class (month)			
	Male	Female	1-3	3-6 <sup>§</sup>	6-12	12≤ <sup>§</sup>
Non- Neurologic CDV (n = 17)	9 (53.0%)	8 (47.0%)	3 (17.6%)	10 (58.8%)*	3 (17.6%)	1 (5.9%)
Neurologic CDV (n = 8)	4 (50.0%)	4 (50.0%)	1 (12.5%)	2 (25%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (62.5%)*
Neurologic non-CDV (n=4)	2 (50.0%)	2 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (25.0%)	3 (75.0%)*
Total (%)	15 (52.8%)	14 (48.2%)	4 (13.8%)	12 (41.4%)	4 (13.8%)	9 (31.0%)

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479 \*Significantly different within group (p-value < 0.05).

480 <sup>§</sup> Significant different between non- neurologic CDV and neurologic CDV groups (p-value < 0.05).

481 <sup>‡</sup>Significant different between neurologic CDV and neurologic non-CDV groups (p-value < 0.05).

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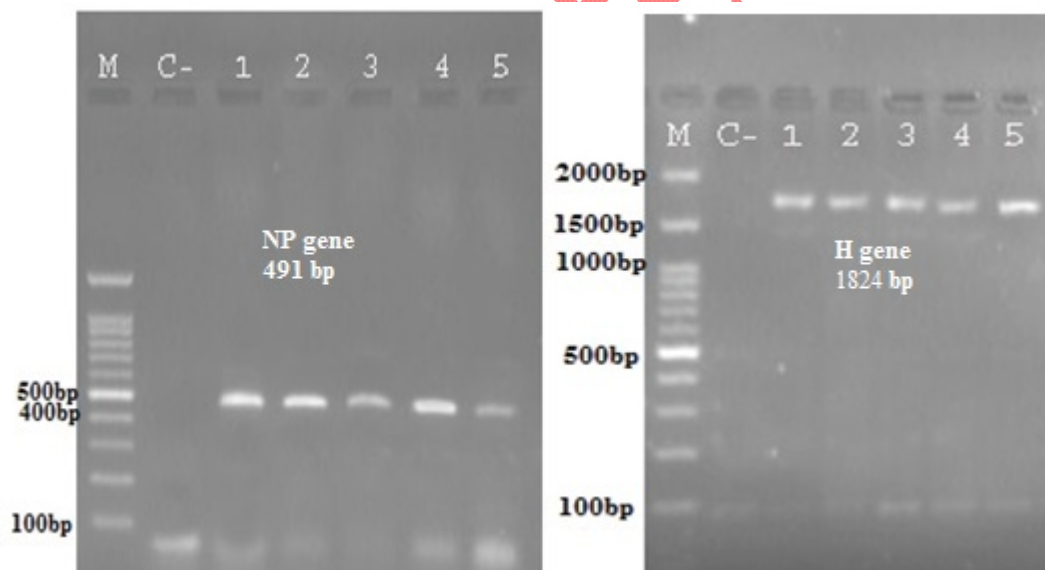
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490 **Figure legends**

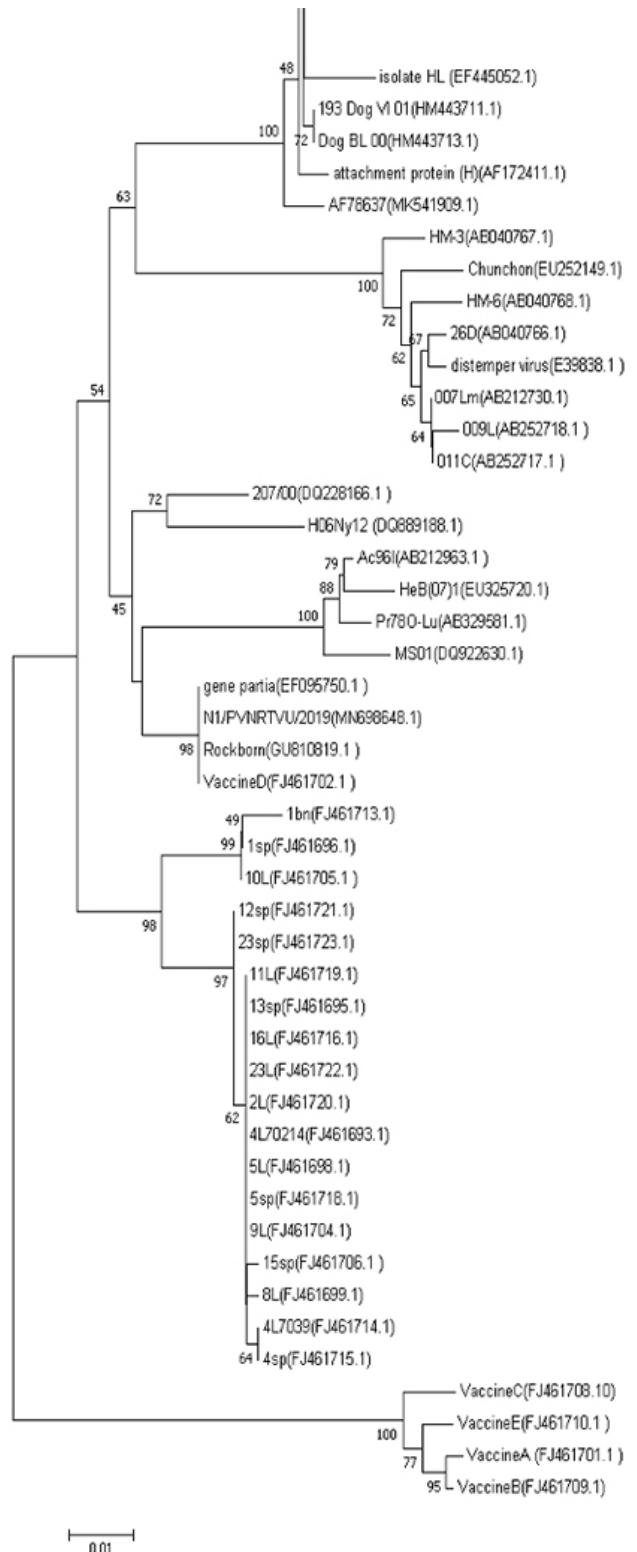
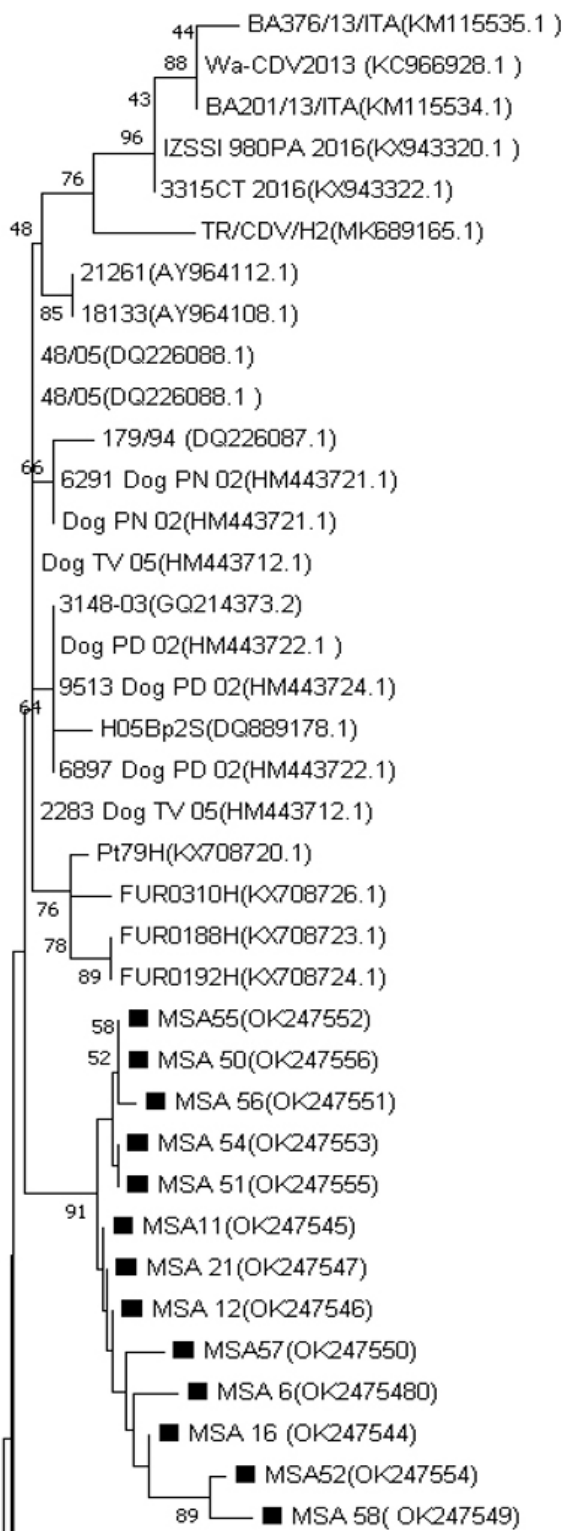


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492 Figure 1: RT- PCR results on agarose gel (1%) electrophoresis of different samples by primer of NP and  
493 H genes. Lanes M: molecular marker (100-bp ladder); lanes C-: negative control; lane 1 to 5: suspected  
494 sample

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497 Figure 2: Phylogenetic relationship of the 13 CDV isolates from the study (solid squares) to other  
498 reported viruses based on the full-length H gene. The phylogenetic tree was constructed using the  
499 maximum-likelihood method in MEGA6.

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502 شناسایی مولکولی ویروس دیستمبر (CDV) در سگ های میتلا به فرم های بالینی عصبی و غیر

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عصبی

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514 زمینه مطالعه : دیستمبر سگ سانان یکی از واگیردارترین و کشنده ترین بیماری های ویروسی در سگ ها است. علی رغم

515 واکسیناسیون گسترده برای کنترل دیستمبر سگ سانان ، شیوع ویروس دیستمبر سگ سانان در سال های اخیر به نرخ هشداردهنده ای

516 رسیده است. هدف: شناسایی ژنوتیپ های مسئول فرم های بالینی عصبی و غیر عصبی دیستمبر سگ ها و بررسی فراوانی حضور

517 ویروس در فرم های بالینی عصبی و غیر عصبی بیماری. روش کار: در این مطالعه توصیفی - تحقیقی از ۷۰ قلاده سگ واکسینه

518 نشده مشکوک به ویروس دیستمبر با علائم بالینی این بیماری، نمونه برداری انجام شد. همه موارد ابتدا با کیت های تشخیصی سریع

519 مورد آزمایش قرار گرفتند، سپس بر اساس علائم بالینی به 3 گروه مختلف تقسیم شدند. نمونه های مایع مغزی نخاعی، ترشحات

520 تنفسی و مدفوع هر 40 سگ برای واکنش زنجیره ای پلیمراز-رونویسی معکوس (RT-PCR) مورد بررسی قرار گرفتند. پس از

521 تعیین توالی ژن همآگلوتینین (ژن H) ، آنالیز فیلوژنتیکی ژن H جدایه های استخراج شده با استفاده از نرم افزار MEGA™ 7 انجام

522 شد. نتایج: تجزیه و تحلیل نتایج نشان داد که ترشحات تنفسی در گروه دیستمبر-غیر عصبی (85%) و دیستمبر-عصبی (80%) دارای

523 بیشترین نمونه مثبت برای تست RT-PCR گزارش شد، اما در گروه عصبی غیر دیستمبر، نمونه مایع مغزی نخاعی بالاترین

524 (40%) بود. در گروه های عصبی، سنین بالای 12 ماه بیشترین درصد آلودگی دیستمبر را نشان دادند و در گروه دیستمبر-غیر

525 عصبی، سنین 3 تا 6 ماه بیشتر درگیر بودند. توالی یابی و تجزیه و تحلیل فیلوژنتیکی ژن H نشان داد که تمامی نمونه های مورد

526 بررسی متعلق به دودمان قطبی بودند. نتیجه گیری نهایی: بررسی ژنوتیپی ژن همآگلوتینین ویروس دیستمبر نشان داد که جدایه های

527 اخیر، در هر دو شکل بالینی عصبی و غیر عصبی دیستمبر در ایران، مشابهت بسیار بالایی دارند. در سگ هایی که نتیجه تست

528 سریع مثبت داشتند، تست PCR ترشحات تنفسی برای تشخیص ویروس حساس ترین نمونه است. در موارد عصبی که نتایج تست

529 سریع منفی داشتند، PCR مایع مغزی نخاعی بالاترین حساسیت را داشته است، بنابراین می تواند یک راه حل تشخیصی باشد.

530 کلیدواژه: دیستمبر، سگ، همآگلوتینین، مایع مغزی نخاعی، عصبی

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