

Vaccination and non-antibiotic strategies for effective control of multidrug-resistant *Salmonella* bacteria of medical and veterinary importance

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Abstract

With conservatively estimated millions of illnesses and deaths each year, most of which are caused by food contamination, *Salmonella* is now a threat and economic cost to the world. Traditional control measures become challenging because of the extensive variety of serovars of the *Salmonella* bacterium, coupled with increased antimicrobial resistance. With special focus on animal reservoir immunization strategies and new antibiotic regimens, the review critically assesses current and potential future control measures against *Salmonella* infection. Live-attenuated, inactivated, subunit, and novel DNA/mRNA platforms are some of the vaccines that attenuate pathogen shedding and zoonotic transmission in animals to a considerable degree. Maintaining the integrity of the gut microbiome, or host immune system activation through adjunct mechanisms like probiotics, bacteriophages, organic acids, essential oils, phytochemicals, and immunomodulators, present non-antibiotic options. Successful control of *Salmonella* requires a combination of strong biosecurity, farm management, and "One Health" strategy together with intersectoral coordination and improved surveillance. To become more acceptable and contribute towards the long-term influence on public health, both legal obstacles and financial barriers will have to be overcome. This article presents these key points concerning the transmission of the infection and pathogenesis of *Salmonella*. The vaccine and alternative measures utilized for control of the transmission are also highlighted.

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1. Introduction

Salmonella, with more than 2600 serotypes, is a zoonotic pathogen of complex makeup, which can survive in varied environments due to its complex biology and rod-like structure. Multi-dimensional virulence mechanisms of toxin production and production, often supplemented by drug resistance, are the primary reasons for its pathogenicity. High frequency, economic significance, and zoonotic transmission patterns of *Salmonella* persist to make it a pertinent international public health and veterinary concern (Naushad et al. 2023). The most common type of *Salmonella* is the non-typhoidal *Salmonella* (NTS), and it produces huge outbreaks on several continents and contributes to approximately 93.8 million human and animal cases and causes millions of animal deaths

worldwide each year (Nazir et al. 2025). This far-reaching influence incurs massive economic losses by raising the cost of treatment and lowering productivity through sickness. The wide social and economic influence of the pathogen is also indicated by the financial loss to the food sector that arises from product recall and loss of public confidence (Teklemariam et al. 2023).

With more than 2,300 identified strains, *Salmonella* is a lethal foodborne disease that is mostly transmitted through contaminated foods, especially of animal origin. The bacterium is generally classified into two groups: typhoidal *Salmonella* and non-typhoidal *Salmonella* (NTS) (Kirti et al. 2024). The two groups are distinguished by different clinical syndromes and a range of illnesses. *Salmonella bongori* is a

minor, distinct subgroup, but the majority of these diverse strains belong to *Salmonella enterica*, which contains roughly 2,400 serovars classified based on their O, H, and K antigenic determinants (Ayuti et al. 2024). *S. enterica* is responsible for infections in both humans and animals. In equines, *Salmonella* serovars have also been detected in an aborted mare fetus (Borovikov et al. 2023). Control measures are significantly hampered by the broad diversity of the serovars, including host-restricted strains as well as strains that can infect a very diverse group of hosts. The zoonotic nature of the disease is evident as while poultry, beef, and pigs are significant sources, fruits and vegetables can also be potential carriers due to fecal contamination during processing. Among the pressing challenges in controlling *Salmonella* infection is increasing drug resistance, hugely decreasing the available therapies, as well as increasing the demand for the development of new forms of control in addition to standard antibiotic treatment. This calls for ongoing research and diligence in monitoring food safety measures (Jajere 2019).

The *Salmonella* poisoning of this huge chunk of the population is, to a very large degree, a function of having a colossal reservoir of infection in animals. Cattle, pigs, and chickens are all culpable as a prime source of disease transmission amongst human beings (Kuria 2023). Chicken foods are implicated more commonly in foodborne disease outbreaks, though control is frustrated by the fact that disease can be horizontally transmitted from free-living animals and pets. Though direct contact with ill animals or their surroundings remains a significant risk, most human infection arises as a result of the consumption of contaminated animal food, including beef, poultry, and pork (Saleem et al. 2023). Water, land, and environmental pollution are also major drivers of the continued occurrence of *Salmonella*. The issue is further complicated by the persistence of drug-resistant bacteria and must be tackled with a multifaceted approach that includes not only improved sanitation and judicious antibiotic use, but also the establishment of effective immunization policies (Marus et al. 2019).

The new trend of antimicrobial resistance, the inherent limitations of the conventional antibiotic regimens, and the multi-dimensional epidemiology involving the entire farm-to-fork supply chain make *Salmonella* control difficult and a complex issue. Overuse of antibiotics for human and veterinary medicine on an enormous scale is a primary cause of the increased emergence of multidrug-resistant (MDR) *Salmonella*, particularly to the first-line drugs such as fluoroquinolones and beta-lactams (Lamichhane et al. 2024). Because new antimicrobial drug development lags behind the rapid evolution of microbial resistance, this overall resistance seriously incapacitates classical antibiotic therapy, making the research and use of alternative therapies unavoidable (Vt Nair et al. 2018). Control measures along the food chain are still further complicated by the newly acquired ability of the pathogen to infect a wide variety of hosts and survive in a wide variety of environments (Nazir et al. 2025). Poultry products serve as a critical reservoir, and farm environments require strict control measures right from the feed level to processing (Obe et al. 2023). Thus, in order to successfully combat *Salmonella*, double and multi-level measures are necessary, not only with enhanced sanitation and judicious application of antibiotics but also through the development of effective broad-spectrum vaccines, along with realistic measures such as feeding-based approaches, stringent biosecurity measures, and careful surveillance for antibiotic-resistance genes (Nazir et al. 2025). Finally, the successful management of the overwhelming complexity of *Salmonella* is a

function of ongoing research, vaccine manufacture, upgrade of surveillance, strict biosecurity, and collective world effort to utilization of more judicious antibiotic stewardship (Raut et al. 2023).

This review presents a critical overview of the global health issue posed by *Salmonella*, according to an assessment of current and forthcoming vaccination methods in animal reservoirs and their capacity to repress pathogen shedding, colonization, and zoonotic transfer, particularly from common hosts like poultry, swine, and cattle (Siddique et al. 2024a). To promote global food safety, this review outlines the key knowledge gaps and suggests R&D avenues to facilitate the control of *Salmonella* including the development of new broad-spectrum vaccines, streamlining new interventions, and enhanced surveillance for antimicrobial resistance (Ruvalcaba-Gómez et al. 2022; Corti Isgro et al. 2024; Magnoli et al. 2024). It also clarifies how these combined measures can be applied synergistically to offer more stable and consistent solutions to the mitigation of *Salmonella*'s detrimental impacts on humans, animals, and the economy throughout the food chain. In order to further global food safety, this program also identifies key knowledge gaps and makes research and development recommendations for facilitating the control of *Salmonella*. These include development of new broad-spectrum vaccines, optimization of delivery of new interventions, and establishment of surveillance against antimicrobial resistance.

2. Pathogenesis and transmission of *Salmonella*

Because of their specific reservoir associations with other animal hosts and human disease syndromes that they invoke, *Salmonella* serovars, that is, *S. Enteritidis*, *S. Typhimurium*, *S. Newport*, and *S. Heidelberg*, are of public health significance (Wibisono et al. 2020). *S. Enteritidis* is a leading cause of human gastroenteritis and is most commonly associated with poultry, particularly eggs (Ayuti et al. 2024). Likewise, *S. Typhimurium*, which accounts for most cases of non-typhoidal salmonellosis, can infect a large host range including cattle and poultry (Arya et al. 2017). *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* are most often recovered from gastroenteritis, while *S. Newport* and *S. Heidelberg* serovars have caused more serious systemic disease, especially among immunocompromised individuals (Kuria 2023). Although often separated from gastroenteritis, especially from *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*, *S. Newport* and *S. Heidelberg* serovars have also been implicated to cause more systemic illness, especially in immunocompromised patients (Lynch and Tauxe 2009). New serovars *S. Drogana* and *S. Elisabethville* have since appeared, illustrating that *Salmonella* epidemiology is constantly changing and that surveillance and study must be ongoing to cope with the dynamic public health risk of these heterogeneous illnesses (Shekhar and Singh 2015).

Salmonella Pathogenicity Islands (SPIs) are horizontally acquired virulence-required genes for the bacterium (Kombade and Kaur 2021). SPI1 and SPI2 with varied Type III Secretion Systems (T3SS) belong to the most striking among the 17 SPIs identified (Lou et al. 2019). *Salmonella* is able to inject a wide variety of effector proteins into host cells through the existence of unique molecular syringes, which are important virulence determinants (Palmer and Slauch 2020). Whereas Although T3SS encoded by SPI2 plays an important role in host macrophage growth and survival and in disseminating systemic infection, the T3SS encoded by SPI1 initiates invasion into epithelial cells, which results in the acute inflammatory reaction and enteritis of *Salmonella* infection (Carneiro et al. 2024). *Salmonella* employs a range of

host colonization mechanisms in addition to T3SS, including the production of adhesin and other effector proteins, which enhance survival in host tissue (Fàbrega and Vila 2013). These SPI-encoded virulence factors interact with host immune mechanisms in a highly interdependent manner, regulating host specificity and significantly influencing disease development and intensity (Wang et al. 2020). Having defined SPIs and T3SS functions, studies continue which will define the entire process by which they interact with host molecules and how this leads to disease virulence. Further knowledge on how these interactions are established is important in order to allow treatment and control strategies to be formulated more effectively against *Salmonella* infection.

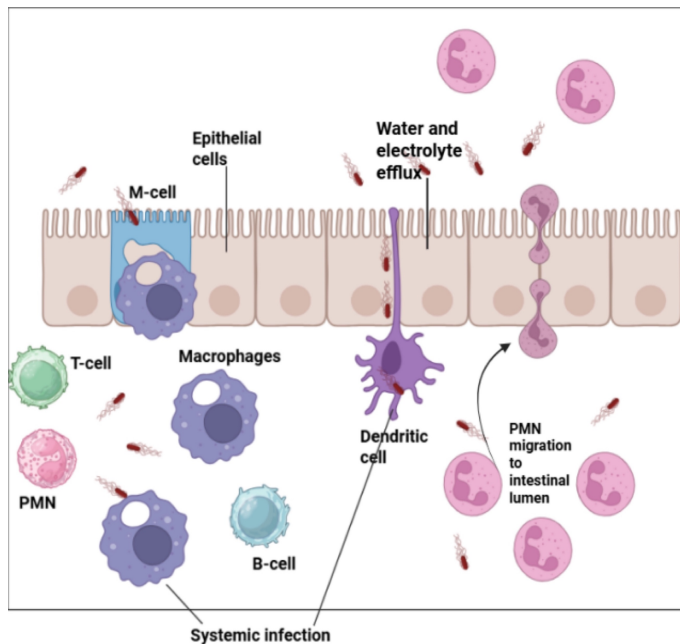


Fig. 1. Entry of *Salmonella* into the host cells and the pathogenesis mechanism

The complex cycle of *Salmonella* transmission in the food chain often originates from farm contamination, where bacteria gain access via an unclean environment, water, and feed (Nair and Kollanoor 2019). Seasonality trends and environmental conditions that affect shedding rates and bacterial proliferation, i.e., impact *Salmonella* dynamics. Broiler farms are also at risk of vertical transmission from breeder to chicks, with significant impacts on prevalence over cycles of production (Siddiqui et al. 2024b). Beyond the farm, processing and handling phases are high-risk for cross-contamination as *Salmonella* easily transfers from piece of equipment to piece of equipment and from surface to surface, and cleanliness measures are necessary (Kilonzo-Nthenge and Mukuna 2018). Since previous use of antibiotics had the effect of causing antimicrobial-resistant strains of *Salmonella*, which had made the treatment cumbersome and raised stakes for public health, Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment (QMRA) models assert the necessity of monitoring at these instances with caution (Rajan et al. 2017). Last but not least, incorrect handling of contaminated products continues to be a major driver of cross-contamination at retail and consumer levels, more so in home cooking environments (Sayed et al. 2024). The extensive prevalence of *Salmonella* along this entire food chain necessitates it absolutely to maintain improved sanitation at all times, enhance surveillance, and offer complete training on proper food

handling procedures in order to minimize the likelihood of transmission and address the emerging problems caused by antibiotic resistance (Willis et al. 2023). Given its far-reaching transmission and complex pathogenesis, several effective interventions, particularly vaccination, have been instrumental in limiting the effect of *Salmonella*.

3. Vaccination strategies to control *Salmonella* infections in animals

3.1 Live attenuated vaccines

With special strengths such as the activation of intense systemic and mucosal immunity, precise for full protection and preventing invasion by pathogens at mucosal surfaces, live attenuated vaccines provide a valuable method for controlling salmonellosis in humans and animals (Shin et al. 2022). But these advantages are balanced against sharp disadvantages, such as the possibility that the attenuated strains will reassort into the virulent strain and cause harm to animal health (Gil et al. 2020). It is also worth noting that vaccinated animals shed the vaccine strain, which can infect the local environment and potentially cross-infect other animals (Cawthraw et al. 2024). That is why their administration has to be performed with the utmost care. However, live attenuated vaccines have been very effective in all other species of animals. For instance, vaccination of hens with live attenuated *Salmonella Typhimurium* has enhanced their immune response and significantly reduced shedding (McWhorter and Chousalkar 2018). These vaccines are still being researched to be optimized for broader application in livestock, although specific data on cattle and pigs are not as frequent. This is due to the fact that underlying immunological fundamentals have equal potential (Chagas et al. 2024). Therefore, as promising, the extensive application of live attenuated *Salmonella* vaccines hinges on continued research to assuage safety concerns and minimize shedding, thereby maximizing their protective benefits to animal health (Aehle and Curtiss Iii 2017).

3.2 Inactivated vaccines

Since inactivated (killed) vaccines are safe and stable in nature, they offer an effective means of *Salmonella* control in humans and animal populations. Since the vaccines do not include living organisms, they pose minimal risk for disease spread, and thus can be used broadly (Daniel Huberman et al. 2022). They remain stable for a longer duration without undergoing extreme loss of potency and hence become easy to distribute. Their ability to cause good immunity has been repeatedly shown in tests, and this has resulted in a significant reduction in pathogen shedding from the vaccinated animals (Cho et al. 2013). The failure of inactivated vaccines to induce good cell-mediated immunity, which is critical in fighting intracellular pathogens such as *Salmonella*, is their major limitation (Daniel Huberman et al. 2022). Such vaccines often require adjuvants to overcome this disadvantage and enhance humoral immune response, complicating formulation and delivery. Other models have been shown to be of high efficacy in lowering fecal shedding and colonization in chicken, such as a trivalent inactivated vaccine for *S. Enteritidis*, *Typhimurium*, and *Infantis* (Senevirathne et al. 2020). Besides, efficacy is route-dependent, but preliminary mouse trials gave 100% protection against lethal challenge. Although inactivated vaccines are certainly worth something due to their safety factor and simplicity of use, additional research must be done to address their shortcomings in inducing complete cell-mediated immunity and to increase overall efficacy against *Salmonella* infection (Won and Lee 2017).

3.3 Subunit vaccines

Subunit vaccines that target certain antigens, such as outer membrane proteins (OMPs) and flagellin, to induce certain immune responses without running into safety concerns involving live or inactivated vaccines are a possible way of controlling *Salmonella* in humans and animals (Dolatyabi et al. 2024). OMPs are good targets because research has established that OMP-based vaccines can significantly enhance the production of certain antibodies as well as cell-mediated immunity. As proven by enhanced delivery of flagellin-coated nanoparticles to chicken immune cells, flagellin, conversely, is a potent adjuvant that enhances the overall immunogenicity of subunit vaccines (Renu et al. 2018). The primary advantage of these vaccines is their better safety profile, i.e., they are less likely to induce adverse effects compared to live-attenuated counterparts, and their ability to induce very specific humoral and cellular immune responses, which are critical for protective *Salmonella* immunity (Liu et al. 2018). To ensure the optimal presentation of the vaccine to the immune system and a good response, there are still numerous challenges ahead in their production, particularly in exactly knowing the most protective antigens among the over 4,000 proteins that *Salmonella* carries and in designing effective delivery systems, such as polyanhydride nanoparticles (Liang et al. 2025). Despite their advantages in terms of safety and customized immunity, additional investigation is needed to overcome these challenges to antigen delivery and identification and achieve the full promise of subunit vaccines (Siddique et al. 2024a).

3.4 Vector vaccines

Salmonella-based vector vaccines have potential in veterinary science as a method of immunization of animals against various infections. To present foreign antigens of nonhomologous viruses and bacteria to the immune system, these vaccines use attenuated forms of *Salmonella*, such as *Salmonella typhi*, as live-attenuated vectors (Lloren and Lee 2023). Recombinant live-attenuated *Salmonella* vaccines (RASVs) produce long-lasting immunity and stability and can also be engineered to produce protective antigens of a wide range of pathogens (Bansal et al. 2024). Multivalency vaccinal protection, which is available against a number of pathogens at the same time and useful for many diseases. Multivalent *Salmonella* vaccines have elicited potent immune responses with preclinical models in preparation for their extensive application in veterinary medicine (Lauer et al. 2017). Heartening as this is, sustainment of long-term immunogenicity in clinical trials is a primary concern for which a delicate balance needs to be struck between the ability of the vaccine to confer immunity and attenuation (Sears et al. 2021).

3.5 Novel vaccine approaches

New vaccine platforms to prevent animal *Salmonella* are under development at a fast pace, employing novel technologies to improve vaccine effectiveness and fight multidrug-resistant bacteria. To elicit a robust immune response, DNA and mRNA vaccines introduce genetic material into host cells, and the cells translate to develop antigens (Aehle and Curtiss Iii 2017). DNA vaccines, for example, have been demonstrated to offer considerable promise against *Salmonella* in a number of animal models. Twenty-two top-scoring proteins of *Salmonella Pullorum* were identified successfully through the use of reverse vaccinology and immunoinformatics based on genetic data to identify lead antigen candidates. Some of these proteins highly protected chick embryos. In addition, CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing is

being researched to create recombinant vaccines with increased immunogenicity and safety. This approach holds the promise of multivalent vaccinations against several pathogens at once (Yero et al. 2020). While these newer methods show tremendous potential, traditional methods of vaccination are still required in veterinary practice, indicating that using both old and new techniques would be optimal for giving the best protection against *Salmonella* infection in animals (Khalid and Poh 2023). The most robust mucosal and systemic immunity is provided by live attenuated vaccines, but potentially virulence and shedding may recur. While inactivated vaccines are safer and more stable, they cannot elicit strong cell-mediated immunity (Bansal et al. 2024). Subunit and vector vaccines yield safe, targeted replacements; more research is required to optimize antigen delivery and achieve broad efficacy. The ideal solution finds a compromise between the strength and totality of the immune response and safety and stability.

4. Impact of vaccination on zoonotic transmission

Through the reduction of shedding, colonization, and environmental contamination in food animals, vaccination plays a crucial role in restricting the zoonotic transmission of *Salmonella* to improve public health and food safety (Daniel Huberman et al. 2022). Live and inactivated vaccines both significantly mitigate *Salmonella* infection and subsequent shedding in poultry, which is central to preventing egg and meat contamination (Kogut and Santin 2019). The studies repeatedly show that vaccination has a great impact on diminishing fecal excretion and gastrointestinal colonization of *Salmonella* in animals, as seen from the effectiveness of the DIVA vaccine against *S. Typhimurium* in swine (Bearson et al. 2017). Given that *Salmonella* causes more than 95 million cases every year across the world, ensuring that vaccination efforts are put in place to lower the prevalence of the bacterium in animals and protect humans from contamination is crucial (Nazir et al. 2025). Furthermore, mass vaccination reduces the need for antibiotics, something which is vital in the worldwide struggle against antibiotic resistance. In spite of its obvious advantages, there are problems that still exist, including the fact that universal vaccinations of broad serovar coverage must be developed and the cost factors of large-scale immunization campaigns (Ayuti et al. 2024).

5. Non-antibiotic control strategies

Other than antibiotics and vaccines, *Salmonella* can also be managed with alternative strategies, including probiotics, prebiotics, organic acids, essential oils, and immunomodulators (Rabetafika et al. 2023; Fayyaz et al. 2025). These alternatives can be given to humans and animals through diet, and they improve gut health and decrease *Salmonella* invasion. Other than this, phage therapy (bacteriophage) has also been used in modern research to control *Salmonella* infections (Kinanti et al. 2024). The major advantage of these therapies is that they are less toxic and eco-friendly as compared to antibiotic treatment. Some of the important non-antibiotic therapies are discussed below and are shown in Fig. 2.

5.1 Use of probiotics and prebiotics

Probiotics and prebiotics, whose well-characterized mechanisms of action include stimulating host defense and inhibiting the pathogen growth directly, are promising alternatives to antibiotics for preventing *Salmonella* infection in humans and animals (Ayalp et al. 2025). Competitive exclusion is an important process wherein beneficial

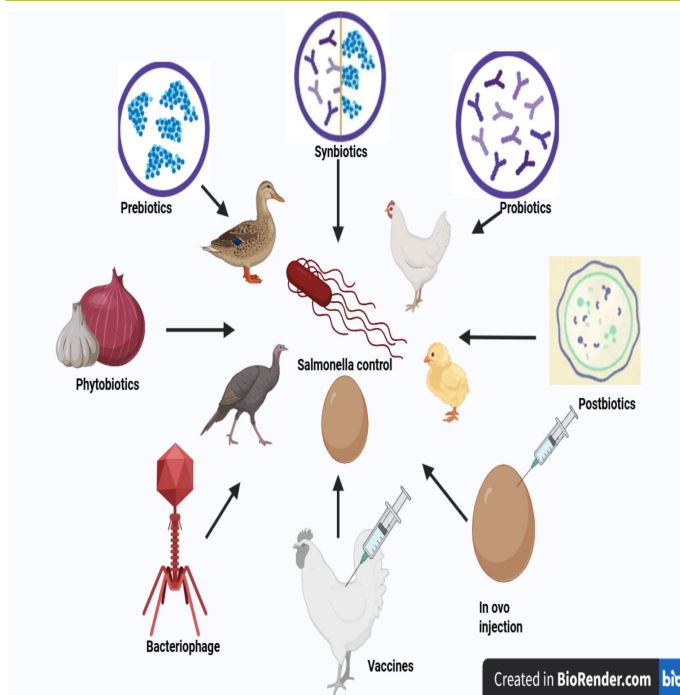


Fig. 2. Strategies to control *Salmonella* infection

bacteria come in and occupy the good space in the gut so that *Salmonella* would not colonize and attach (Rabetafika et al. 2023). In addition, as shown by increased blood markers of TNF- α and Pig-MAP in treated animals, probiotics engage actively with immunomodulation to enhance the host's innate and adaptive immunity and exhibit a heightened immunological response to infection. In addition, some probiotic strains contribute to the production of antimicrobial compounds (Coniglio et al. 2023) by producing compounds such as organic acids and bacteriocins that inhibit *Salmonella* from proliferating (Solfaine et al. 2024). These therapies' efficacy is often strain-dependent, with differing positive effects for different animal species. In weaned pigs, for instance, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* HN001 has exhibited effective *Salmonella* clearance, and in broilers, *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* exhibited strong inhibitory effects against *Salmonella* Heidelberg (Kowalska et al. 2020). Similarly, it has been established that *Bifidobacterium longum* enhances immunological functions and significantly reduces *Salmonella* colonization in pigs (Cameron and McAllister 2019).

Probiotics and prebiotics hold great promise but do encounter a couple of challenges in the future. Choosing the most favorable probiotic strains for target animal species and *Salmonella* serovars is necessary to maximize gains, so selection of the strain is a crucial step. Because clearance of new probiotic products takes time and is complicated, regulatory obstacles can be a considerable challenge. Furthermore, observed variation in probiotic function can represent a confounding factor determined by a broad variety of environmental factors, host physiological characteristics, and the particular *Salmonella* challenge (Sachdeva et al. 2025). Thus, while probiotics and prebiotics present a strong argument in favor of *Salmonella* control, further work is needed to maximize their composition, application, and selection to achieve widespread and uniform efficacy in clinical and agricultural contexts (Hosseini et al. 2018).

5.2 Phage therapy (Bacteriophages)

During the time when antibiotic resistance is on the rise, bacteriophages, or phages, are a very promising option to standard medication in the fight against *Salmonella* infections in animals and humans (Kinanti et al. 2024). They are an attractive therapeutic option because of their inherent advantages (Khan and Rahman 2022). First, unlike broad-spectrum antibiotics that can disrupt the gut microbiota, phages exhibit high specificity, killing *Salmonella* bacteria while largely leaving the healthy commensal microbiota intact (Hu et al. 2018). Second, phages possess the unique characteristic of being able to propagate and multiply, where they cause infection provided their host bacteria are present. This would increase the effectiveness of the treatment and minimize the need for frequent high dosing (Kutter et al. 2005). Thirdly, unlike most drug treatments, phages are generally low in toxicity for non-target species, including humans and animals, with minimal side effects and a good safety profile (Hibstu et al. 2022).

Phage therapy's plasticity permits the promise of having an overwhelmingly large number of applications in the food supply. Phages can be intentionally targeted to deliver to pigs and poultry in feed or water during pre-harvest conditions (Thanki et al. 2021). This lowers *Salmonella* colonization within the animals prior to reaching the food supply. By being proactive in this step, the bacterial burden is significantly diminished at the source (Pelyuntha et al. 2022). Phages can be sprayed directly onto food surfaces, such as carcasses and processed foods in post-harvest use to actively decrease *Salmonella* contamination. This enhances food safety and reduces the likelihood of acquiring a foodborne illness (De Veg et al. 2019).

While these are key advantages, there are a variety of barriers to the general application of phage therapy. Host range is one of the primary limitations of phages; certain phages may be effective against very few *Salmonella* strains, so phage cocktails or the development of new phages must be done to obtain coverage of a range of serovars (Molina et al. 2024). Similar to antibiotic resistance, phages can also be resisted by bacteria, making long-term treatment plans difficult and necessitating ongoing research on new isolates of phages. Lastly, the regulatory factor is a significant barrier; in most countries, there is no well-documented and standardized protocol for phage therapy approval and administration, effectively limiting its application in veterinary as well as human medicine (Khan and Rahman 2022). In spite of these difficulties, phage therapy offers much potential as a long-term, specific treatment for *Salmonella* infection. This is particularly so in light of the increasing problem of antibiotic resistance and the need for urgent research and the development of robust legal frameworks to allow its safe and effective use (Alsayed and Permana 2024).

5.3 Use of organic acids and essential oils

Essential oils (EOs) and organic acids are gaining prominence for their powerful antibacterial action against human and animal *Salmonella* infections as new antimicrobials for replacing traditional antibiotics (Bagheri et al. 2024). They exert action by inhibiting the metabolism and integrity of bacteria through complex mechanisms (Al-Harrasi et al. 2022; Rashid et al. 2024). The most potent of these is the cell membrane disruption, where bioactive compounds such as carvacrol and thymol in essential oils lyse the bacterial cell membrane through a mechanism of increased permeability, leading to loss of the cellular contents and finally death of the cells. Additionally, EOs are also able to induce metabolic inhibition of *Salmonella* by targeting the key biochemical pathways for pathogen growth and survival (Gómez-García et al. 2020; Iqbal et al. 2024). These products have been used practically in animal

production, especially when supplemented to water and feed. Addition of EO and blends of organic acids to feed has shown outstanding in broiler hens, which effectively controlled *Salmonella* loads, boosted growth, and improved gut health (Hu et al. 2023). In the same way, organic acid treatment of water is also needed in an attempt to eliminate *Salmonella* contamination of animal environments and provide a safer environment for animal keeping. Likewise, organic acid water treatment is important in an attempt to limit *Salmonella* invasion of animal environments and provide a safer environment to animals (Hu et al. 2023).

Aside from their direct antibacterial effect, essential oils and organic acids also exhibit positive effect on the intestinal microbiota of the host. By stimulating the growth of the beneficial bacteria such as the butyric acid-producing bacteria, they can modulate the gut microbiota and establish a normal gut environment by competing with *Salmonella* (Nhara et al. 2024). This change, therefore, yields lower amounts of *Salmonella* colonization in the infected animal's intestines, which lower the shedding of the pathogen and retard its spread (Qiao et al. 2022). Although the utilization of organic acids and essential oils as a control measure of *Salmonella* is a long-lasting, potent, and antibiotic-free method, there exist certain disadvantages. Host animal overall health status, intended *Salmonella* serovar, and environment are all contributory factors and may have a main role in their potency (Stingelin et al. 2023). Additionally, for optimal consumption and best possible outcome, potential impacts on feed palatability and nutrient formulation concerns need to be addressed with care. To develop their application further and formulate significant protocols for their effective and large-scale use in agricultural settings, additional research must be performed (Dhakal and Aldrich 2023).

5.4 Phytobiotics and immunomodulators

The central function of phytobiotics and immunomodulators in supporting host defense against *Salmonella* infection in animal and human hosts is progressively well understood. These endogenous compounds are strong substitutes for traditional antibiotics because they contain intrinsic antibacterial activity as well as immune system stimulation (Noor et al. 2023). Innate and adaptive immunity are completely enhanced as part of their mechanism of action. For instance, immunomodulators trigger major immune cells such as dendritic cells and macrophages, which consequently lead to the secretion of major cytokines such as IL-12 and IL-18. These cytokines, working in tandem, are purported to enhance the host's immunity against *Salmonella*. Similarly, phytobiotics have shown potential to improve humoral as well as cellular immunity in poultry, particularly after vaccination. These plant materials show direct antibacterial activity along with their immune-stimulating effect (Abd El-Ghany 2020). Recombinant human β -defensins derived from plants (hBD-1 and hBD-2) have shown great promise, inhibiting *in vitro* *Salmonella* growth by up to 96%. Phytochemicals also actively act against antibiotic resistance determinants of *Salmonella* by effectively inhibiting efflux pumps and biofilm formation, making them potential antimicrobial agents (Patro et al. 2015). Despite such promising developments, there are still obstacles to overcome, namely relating to standardizing these natural compounds and negotiating the hurdles of securing regulatory approval to utilize them more extensively in veterinary and human medicine (Orimaye et al. 2024). Compared to traditional antibiotics, the non-antibiotic *Salmonella* treatments are less harmful and ecologically friendly. Through mechanisms such as chemical synthesis of

antimicrobial compounds, they inhibit the growth of pathogens in a direct action, facilitate gut wellness, and cause competitive exclusion. High specificity treatments such as phage therapy also maintain the healthy gut flora.

6. Farm management practices and biosecurity

Farms need to apply a multi-pronged approach based on optimal biosecurity and farm management practices to manage *Salmonella* infections. Strict hygiene within the farm in the form of regular cleansing and decontamination of facilities and separation of sick animals are key strategies (Raut et al. 2023). Pest control is also essential, such as the use of bait boxes and traps for rodents and insects and the exclusion of wildlife to avoid cross-contamination. To prevent cross contamination between groups, all-in/all-out batch management systems need to be employed and water quality monitored and treated (Poudel and Adhikari 2024). Environmental contamination can be prevented by effective disposal of waste, such as effective manure management. Lastly, regular feed testing and treatment widely reduces the risk of infection by feed safety and decontamination (Youssef et al. 2021). Farms must implement a multi-layered approach based on good biosecurity and farm management practice in order to combat infection of *Salmonella*. Sanitizing the farm is of basic importance, from the regular maintenance of cleaning and disinfection of buildings through to segregation of infected animals (Pedersen et al. 2023). Pest control, such as the employment of rodent and insect control in the form of reutenent stations and traps and wildlife encroachment prevention to prevent cross-contamination, is also as important. All-in/all-out batch control systems and water quality in the form of treatment and monitoring must be employed to prevent cross-contamination between batches (Smith et al. 2023). Environmental pollution can be avoided with proper waste disposal, such as safe manure handling. Lastly, frequent testing and treatment of feed greatly lowers the risk of infection from feed safety and disinfection (Zamora-Sanabria and Alvarado 2017). A summary of the control strategies for *Salmonella* is given in Table 1.

7. One Health approach to control *Salmonella*

Because human, animal, and environmental health are all highly interdependent, the One Health approach provides an integrated and unified framework for addressing *Salmonella* infections. To address foodborne outbreaks effectively and inhibit the spread of infections like *Salmonella*, this multifaceted approach promotes preventive, intersectoral action by a variety of sectors (Feng et al. 2023). Intersectoral coordination, through fostering good partnerships between environmental, animal, and human health agencies, is at the heart of the One Health approach. As has been demonstrated by simulation exercises such as those conducted in Portugal, which placed high priority on the inherent need for harmonization and safe data exchange in a quest to improve readiness for subsequent epidemics, this multidisciplinary approach acknowledges that the control of disease is not plausibly attainable unilaterally. These exercises underpin the need for cooperation by highlighting communication and coordination breakdowns. The effectiveness of One Health planning depends on successful surveillance and information exchange. To provide information gathering and analysis on zoonotic disease on a required basis, capable surveillance systems such as the United States' National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System are needed. Systematic data collection facilitates targeted, timely action through early outbreak

Table 1. Summarized table for control strategies for *Salmonella*

Control strategy	Type	Advantage	Limitation	Key findings	Future directions	References
Vaccination	Live attenuated vaccines	Good systemic and mucosal immunity	Shedding of vaccination strain pathogenicity regain	Reduced shedding in chickens that were vaccinated with <i>Salmonella Typhimurium</i>	Ongoing research to mitigate shedding and assuage safety concerns	(Raccoursier et al. 2024)
	In-activated vaccines	Long shelf life Stability less disease transmission and safety	Require adjuvants Cannot develop good cell-mediated immunity	Reduced fecal shedding in chickens against S. <i>Enteritidis</i> , <i>Typhimurium</i> , and <i>Infantis</i>	Studies to enhance overall effectiveness and cell-mediated immunity	(Walker and Bourgeois 2023)
	Sub-unit vaccines	Better safety profile induce specific cellular and humoral immune responses	The challenges of identifying the best protective antigens Develop effective delivery systems	OMP-based immunizations induce cell-mediated immunity and antibody production	Additional studies are needed to identify and deliver antigens.	(Marasini and Kaminskas 2019)
	Vector vaccines	Can deliver multivalent protection Immunity is constant and durable.	Challenging to achieve consistent immunogenicity	Robust immune reactions were demonstrated in preclinical models.	Vaccine attenuation and immunity potential equilibrium	(Roland et al. 2020)
	Novel vaccine approaches (DNA/mRNA/CRISPR Cas-9)	Induce robust immune reactions Hold promise against MDR bacteria	Still under development	In animal models, DNA vaccines hold promise; CRISPR-Cas9 for recombinant immunizations	Ongoing R&D complemented with traditional methods	(Zahedipour et al. 2024)
Alternative control strategies	Prebiotics/probiotics	Immunomodulation, pathogen growth inhibition competitive exclusion stimulation of host defense	Strain dependence, activity Unpredictability and regulatory restriction.	For the elimination of <i>Salmonella</i> from pigs, use <i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i> HN001.	Strain selection, application, and composition optimization	(Kosuri et al. 2025)
	Phage therapy (Bacteriophages)	<i>Salmonella</i> specificity, site of infection amplification low toxicity	Limited host range, phage-resistant organisms regulatory issues	It may be applied onto food surfaces post-harvest or in feed and water prior to harvest.	Enforcing robust legislative structures and prompt research are vital for safe and effective utilization.	(Palma and Qi 2024)
	Organic acids and essential oils	Enhance gut health promote good bacteria disrupt bacterial metabolism and integrity.	Environment, host, and serovar influence all efficacy; palatability issues	Reduce <i>Salmonella</i> loads in broiler hens by the use of feed additives	Further research for use and credible practice in agriculture	(Hu et al. 2023)
	Phytobiotics & immunomodulators	Innate and adaptive immune system stimulation Inherent antibacterial activity	Regulatory approval standardization issues	Enhance chicken humoral and cellular immunity; prevent <i>Salmonella</i> growth in vitro	Overcoming legal barriers to facilitate wider use	(Abd El-Ghany 2020)
	Farm management & biosecurity	Feed testing waste management, all-in/all-out systems pest control, and strict hygiene	Needs regular monitoring	Eliminates the likelihood of infection and prevents cross-contamination.	Continual improvement and adherence to best methodologies	(Smith et al. 2023)

warning (Mehmood et al. 2023). Also, application of most of the modern technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems, is a big help towards the powerful representation of disease patterns. GIS allows tracking of the transmission channels in spatial analysis and data mapping so that it can be possible to target resources and interventions more effectively.

To combat successfully the complex challenges posed by zoonotic diseases, One Health actually needs to be addressed by concerted efforts from all the involved sectors. Case-control research has the tendency to provide the foundation for tailored interventions to reduce transmission through systematic recognition of outbreak origins (Qureshi et al. 2024). Organizational and political will at a large scale must, however, come into play for successful implementations of such concerted policies. Strong leadership and continued support of committed agencies and organizations would be prevented from effectively and efficiently controlling *Salmonella* and other zoonotic

risks by fragmented action and unnecessary consumption of resources. There are however barriers to implementation despite the obvious advantages of the One Health strategy. These are broken systems of data that conventionally work in silos within multiple sectors and hence make it difficult to achieve integrated analysis and scarce resources that potentially constrain building and sustaining effective surveillance programs and intervention schemes. Unlocking the true potential of the One Health approach for the protection of public and animal health, these are challenges that must be overcome by commitment to enhance intersectoral collaboration and build surveillance capacity.

8. Challenges and limitations

There are certain obstacles to effective *Salmonella* control in the poultry supply chain that affect ease and effectiveness of interventions. One considerable such obstacle is cost-effectiveness of treatment, particularly due to the fact that producers, especially from the

developing world, may have severe financial limitations when implementing extensive measures such as improved biosecurity, vaccine programs, and aggressive feed hygiene (Rabie et al. 2023). Probiotics and bacteriophages are other possible alternative technologies just starting to make waves, but requiring gigantic amounts of research and development funding to demonstrate their safety and effectiveness before they can be applied to masses (Susalam et al. 2024). Current control measures and treatments are magnified by the emergence of antibiotic-resistant pathogens such as *Salmonella* *Infantis*, which is typically multidrug-resistant. This necessitates sharp vigilance and stern management practices that can fight against the evolving nature of *Salmonella* along with resistance (Rabie et al. 2023). In addition to ongoing research funding into other treatments and health education for the public, resolving these interlinked issues is a collective effort by industry stakeholders, regulators, and consumers (Mahmoud et al. 2023). Continuous investment in research and development of possible non-antibiotic treatments such as probiotics and bacteriophages to determine their safety and large-scale use is one of means to end the danger of *Salmonella*. Industry, regulators, consumers, and all have to work together to aggressively combat antibiotic-resistant strains and support public health education.

9. Conclusions

Salmonella bacteria, because of their multiple strains, exhibit antimicrobial resistance to traditional antibiotic medicines and resulting in massive economic losses worldwide. Vaccination is among the more effective strategies that have yielded remarkable results, but vaccines against non-typhoidal *Salmonella*, particularly in poultry, continue to develop but are restrained by the variable efficacy of serovars and production systems. Other therapeutic interventions like prebiotics, probiotics, organic acids, plant extracts, essential oils, bacteriophages, and immunomodulators provide effective outcomes to inhibit bacterial colonization, shedding, and transmission. These treatments can be used with optimal benefits if they are administered with stringent biosecurity protocols. In addition, regimens of One Health genomic surveillance will be necessary to minimize the global burden of salmonellosis and maintain human and animal health.

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