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# Modelling the evolution of Schmallenberg virus seroprevalence in a sheep flock after natural infection

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## 1. Introduction

In autumn 2011, the first clinical evidence of Schmallenberg virus (SBV) infection was reported among cattle herds in Germany and in the Netherlands. This novel arbovirus belonging to the genus *Orthobunyavirus* and the family *Bunyaviridae* was responsible for a mild transient disease characterized by hyperthermia, diarrhea and drop of milk production (Hoffmann et al., 2011). Within the next months, an epizootic outbreak of congenital deformities, featuring an arthrogryposis-hydranencephaly syndrome, was observed in still- or newborns (calves, lambs and kids) in Germany, the Netherlands and neighboring countries (Luttikholt et al., 2014). These malformations were clearly associated with transplacental SBV infection. In early spring 2012,

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