

Foodborne Illnesses Associated With the Consumption of Meat and Meat Products BY: Dr. Hassan Ekhtiarzadeh (DVM, DVSc)

Zoonoses

 A zoonosis is any disease or infection that is naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals to humans.

WHO

Zoonotic diseases, or zoonoses, are diseases shared between animals – including livestock, wildlife, and pets – and people.

WHO-FAO-OIE

By: Dr. Hassan Ekhtiarzadeh

868 (61%) pathogens are considered to be **zoonotic**

- The 1,415 pathogens identified in humans include:
- 217 viruses and prions,
- **538** bacteria and rickettsiae,
- **307 fungi**,
- **66 protozoa** and
- **287** helminths.
- Of these pathogens, 868 (61%) are considered to be zoonotic diseases.



From farm to slaughter

 1990, the Richmond Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (Part II) concluded that 'farmers can contribute to food safety by producing healthy, clean and unstressed animals for slaughter.

Farm to Fork strategy



From farm to slaughter (cont.)

1. The control of contamination such as heavy metals and radioactive materials

From farm to slaughter (cont.)

- 2. The correct and appropriate use of veterinary medicinal products and feed additives and their traceability
- 3. The proper disposal of dead animals and waste

From farm to slaughter (cont.) Protective measures to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases transmissible to humans through food and any obligations to notify the competent authority

From farm to slaughter (cont.)

5. Procedures to ensure that food is produced, handled, packed, stored and transported under appropriate hygienic conditions, including effective cleaning and pest control

Unacceptable faecal/soil contamination





Animal welfare

An animal's welfare, whether on farm, in transit, at market or at a place of slaughter, should be considered in terms of the 'five freedoms'.

MEAT INSPECTION PROCEDURES

- Objectives :
- To ensure that only apparently healthy, physiologically normal animals are slaughtered
- 2. To ensure that meat from animals is free from disease agents

The scope of meat inspection has been enlarged over the last few decades.

The substantial core of meat inspection is public health and consumer protection.
Public health issues, such as prevention of the transmission of pathogenic microorganisms and contagious diseases, have been important from the beginning of meat inspection.

Proper Meat Inspection

Veterinary Antemortem Inspection
 Veterinary postmortem Inspection
 If necessary, laboratory tests

Biosecurity measures (cont.)

- Many food pathogens can be detected and controlled in the flock or herd level instead of detection at the slaughter line.
- Biosecurity measures are the main preventive measures for reducing food safety risks at herd level.



Preventive measures for the most important meat-borne zoonotic agents in Europe

158 CH7 RISK-BASED MEAT INSPECTION

Table 7.1 Preventive measures for the most important meat-borne zoonotic agents in Europe.

Agent	Preventative measure ^a					
	Herd level	Serological categorization	Meat inspection	Slaughter hygiene	Carcass Decontamination ^b	Freezing
Campylobacter	+++	++	_	+	++	++
Salmonella	+++	++	+	+	++	_
Yersinia ^c	+++	++	_	+	++	_
STEC ^d	+++	_	_	+	++	_
Toxoplasma	+++	++	_	_	_	+++
Trichinella	+++	++	+++ ^e	_	-	+++

^a great effect: +++; good effect: ++; limited effect: +

^b by steam or/and hot water

^c pathogenic Yersinia enterocolitica and Y. pseudotuberculosis

^d Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli

^e every carcasses is tested by a validated reference method, usually by digestion method

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

A tick-borne virus (*Nairovirus*) in the family *Bunyaviridae*First characterized in the Crimea in 1944
later recognized in 1969 in the Congo



Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (cont.)

Numerous wild and domestic animals, such as cattle, goats, sheep and hares, serve as amplifying hosts for the virus. Transmission to humans occurs through contact with infected ticks or animal blood. CCHF can be transmitted from one infected human to another by contact with infectious blood or body fluids.

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (cont.)

- Many birds are resistant to infection, but ostriches appear to be more susceptible.
 Viraemia in livestock is short-lived, and of low intensity.
- These animals play a crucial role in the life cycle of ticks, and in the transmission and amplification of the virus
- Animals do not develop clinical signs.

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (cont.)

Risk of Exposure

- Animal herders
- livestock workers
- slaughterhouse workers

Rabies

Importance of Ante mortem inspection Rabies virus is transmitted through direct contact (such as through broken skin or mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, or mouth) with saliva or brain/nervous system tissue from an infected animal. People usually get rabies from the bite of a rabid animal. It is also possible, but rare, for people to get rabies from non-bite exposures, which can include scratches, abrasions, or open wounds that are exposed to saliva or other potentially infectious material from a rabid animal.

Rabies

Antemortem findings :
Furious form
Incubation from 2 weeks to 6 months or longer

Restlessness

 Aggressive, may attack other animals

- Sexual excitement
- Bellowing
- Paralysis and death



Rabies

Paralytic form :
Salivation
The tail is held to one side
Tenesmus or paralysis of the anus
Paralysis
The animal falls to the ground

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, "Mad cow disease")

- BSE is a progressive and fatal disease of adult cattle
- vCJD is a rare and fatal condition of humans that affects the nervous system.
- Transmission: Eating contaminated beef products. Contact with specified risk material (SRM) during slaughter of infected animals.
 No details of occupational links.
 Judgement : Carcass is condemned. 26

Contagious ecthyma (Orf) Orf virus (genus Parapoxvirus -family Poxviridae) Mainly occurs in sheep and goats Orf has been reported in people who handled infected animals or their tissues. • The pustular and scabby lesions on the lips, muzzle and udder in sheep and goats.

Contagious ecthyma (Orf)

 Contagious ecthyma affected goat. Scab is formed around the mouth



Contagious ecthyma (Orf)





Contagious ecthyma (American Academy of Dermatology) Contagious ecthyma. Close up view of a proliferative muzzle lesion in sheep

Rift valley fever (RVF)

RVF is an acute viral disease of sheep, cattle, goats and humans. It is manifested with hepatitis and high mortality in young lambs and calves, and abortion in adult animals.
Rift valley fever resembles influenza in humans.

The disease is caused by RVF virus (RVFV), a member of the genus *Phlebovirus* in the order *Bunyavirales*.

Rift valley fever (RVF)

Transmission : Biting insects and mosquitoes.
 Possible direct contact via cornea. Human infection occur by handling diseased tissues.

Rift Valley Fever (RVF) virus ecology

Enzootic Cycle

Local enzootic transmission of RVF occurs at low levels in nature during periods of average rainfall. The virus is maintained through transovarial transmission from the female Aedes mosquito to her eggs and through occassional amplification cycles in susceptible livestock.

Epizootic-Epidemic cycle

Abnormally high rainfall and flooding stimulate hatching of the infected Aedes mosquito eggs, resulting in a massive emergence of Aedes, including RVF virus-infected Aedes. Secondary vectors include other mosquito genera such as Culex, which can pass on the virus to humans and animals, producing disease. Human exposure to viremic livestock (mostly small ruminants) blood and tissue can occur during slaughtering or birthing activities.

The infected Aedes then feed on vulnerable livestock, triggering virus amplification and an epizootic. Epizootics cause abortion storms, with >90% mortality in newborns and 10 - 30% mortality in adults.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

A(H5N1) and A(H7N9) viruses are zoonotic flu viruses of public health concern because they have infected people and caused serious illness. (CDC)



Highly pathogenic avian influenza (cont.)

Although avian influenza A viruses usually do not infect people, rare cases of human infection with these viruses have been reported. Infected birds shed avian influenza virus in their saliva, mucous and feces. Human infections with bird flu viruses can happen when enough virus gets into a person's eyes, nose or mouth, or is inhaled.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (cont.) During 2007, there were 85 cases of AI (H5N1) infection in humans worldwide. (57 deaths in seven different countries) In 2007, the first internationally recognized outbreak of H7N2 infection affecting a number of people occurred in North West England and North Wales. Cases had a history of exposure to infected poultry premises or close contact with confirmed cases.

Tuberculosis

 Tuberculosis is a chronic disease of many animal species especially cattle and poultry caused by bacteria of the genus *Mycobacterium*.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mycobacterium bovis The diagnosis may be confirmed by making a smear of the lesion and with Ziehl-Neelsen.



Tuberculosis (slow generalisation) - liver: cattle

Bovine Tuberculosis

Young calves are infected by ingestion of contaminated milk.

People are most commonly infected with *M.* bovis by eating or drinking contaminated, unpasteurized dairy products.

Infection can also occur from direct contact with a wound, such as what might occur during slaughter or hunting, or by inhaling the bacteria in air exhaled by animals infected with *M. bovis*.

Bovine Tuberculosis

 Judgement : Carcass of an animal affected with tuberculosis requires additional postmortem examination of the lymph nodes, joints, bones.



150 Tuberculosis – retropharyngeal lymph nodes: cattle The ymph nodes were enlarged and the parenchyma of one was otally replaced by caseous matter with calcified areas, which xplains the stasis of the lymph. The other lymph node showed esions corresponding to a breakdown of body resistance.

Differential diagnosis: Purulent lymphadenitis; Cysts.

- Leptospirosis or Rice Field Fever
- Leptospirosis is an important and relatively common disease of domestic and wild animals and humans.
- Interstitial nephritis, anaemia and mastitis and abortion can be occur in cattle.

 Many different kinds of wild and domestic animals carry the bacterium. These can include, but are not limited to:

- Cattle
- Pigs
- Horses
- Dogs
- Rodents
- Wild animals

- Humans can become infected through:
- Contact with urine from infected animals.
- Contact with water, soil, or food contaminated with the urine of infected animals.
- It is an occupational hazard for many people who work outdoors or with animals, such as:
- Farmers
- Mine workers
- Sewer workers
- Slaughterhouse workers
- Veterinarians and animal caretakers
- Fish workers. Dairy farmers

The bacteria can enter the body through skin or mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth), especially if the skin is broken from a cut or scratch.

Drinking contaminated water can also cause infection.

 Outbreaks of leptospirosis are usually caused by exposure to contaminated water, such as floodwaters.

Interstitial nephritis in a bovine. Carcass of an animal affected with acute leptospirosis is condemned.



Brucellosis

Brucella abortus, Brucella Melitensis
 Transmission: Eating or drinking contaminated material, inhalation of the organism from infected animals or through skin wounds.

Brucellosis

 Hygromas on the knee joints.





 Personal protective equipment (PPE) for inspection of brucellosis reactors.

Anthrax

 Human may contract anthrax by inhalation (inhaling spores from wool from infected carcasses), ingestion and through a wound in the skin.

The peracute and acute forms in cattle and sheep are without clinical signs. Death may follow in the acute form after 1 – 2 hours of illness. The acute form lasts about 48 hours.

Anthrax

Postmortem findings:

- Dark-tarry blood discharge from body orifices
- Absence of rigor mortis
- Haemorrhage of the mucous and serous membranes, lymph nodes and subcutaneous tissue

Enlarged spleen

- Severe haemorrhagic enteritis
- Degeneration of the liver and kidneys
- Bloating and rapid decomposition of carcass
- Localized lesions in the intestine of pigs (dysentery

Anthrax

Toluidine blue stain
 Bacillus anthracis in tissue seen in short chains surrounded by a common capsule.



 In animals, salmonellosis is characterized clinically by one of three syndromes: a) *peracute septicemic form:*, b) *acute enteritis* or c) *chronic enteritis*.

Antemortem findings:

- Peracute septicemic form
- Occurs most frequently in colostrum deficient animals up to four months of age.
- Increased temperature $40.4^{\circ}C 41.5^{\circ}C$.
- Depression
- Diarrhoea and dehydration
- Death within 24–48 hours
- Approximately four weeks after the onset of diarrhoea
- Polyarthritis
- Meningoencephalitis
- Necrosis of distal limbs, tails and ear

Acute enteritis

- Common form in adult cattle in late pregnancy and early postpartum
- High temperature of 40°C 41°C
- Depression and loss of appetite
- Watery, foul smelling diarrhoea and dehydration
- Emaciation
- Reduced milk production and abortion
- Death

Postmortem findings:

- Septicemic form
- Absence of gross lesions in animals
- Submucosal and subserosal haemorrhage
- Acute enteritis
- Mucoenteritis to diffuse haemorrhagic enteritis
- Severe necrotic enteritis of ileum and large intestine caused by S. typhimurium
- Abomasitis in S. dublin infection
- Enlarged, edematous and haemorrhagic lymph nodes
- Thickened inflamed gall bladder wall

Judgement: Carcass affected with Salmonellosis is *condemned*.

Campylobacteriosis

- *Campylobacter coli, Campylobacter jejuni*The main sources for campylobacter are raw meat, especially offal, and poultry.
- In the United States, poultry is associated with 50– 70% of human cases of campylobacter infection.
- People can get Campylobacter infection by:
- eating raw or undercooked poultry or eating something that touched it
- eating seafood, meat, and
- drinking untreated water.

Other Common Meat-borne Diseases

Organism	Onset of Symptoms Associated Food(s)	Associated Food(s)
Campylobacter	2 - 5 days, range 1 - 10 days	Undercooked chicken or pork, unpasteurized milk
E. coli (shiga-toxin) <i>Enterohemorrh</i> <i>agic E coli</i> (<i>EHEC</i>)	3 - 4 days, range 2 - 10 days	STEC live in the guts of ruminant esp. cattle, contaminated fruits or vegetables, person-to-person
Listeria	3 weeks, range 3 - 70 days	deli meats, hot dogs, undercooked poultry, unwashed raw vegetables
Salmonella	12 - 36 hours, range 6 - 72 hours	Contaminated eggs, poultry, beef, raw fruits and vegetables, unpasteurized milk or juice, cheese

57

Fascioliasis

Fasciola hepatica
Fasciola gigantica
Fasciola gigantica is two or three times larger then Fasciola hepatica.



Fascioliasis

Aquatic snail
 Lymnaea truncatula is
 intermediate
 host.



Fascioliasis

- Antemortem findings :
- Weight loss and emaciation
- Fall in milk production
- Anaemia
- Chronic diarrhoeaSwelling in the mandibular area



Pharyngeal fascioliasis (halzoun)

Pharyngeal fascioliasis (halzoun) in humans results from eating raw *Fasciola*-laded bovine liver where young flukes become attached to the pharyngeal membranes, resulting in pain and coughing.

Cysticercosis

Cysticercus bovis
Taenia saginata
masseter muscles, tongue, heart and diaphragm
Infection in man occurs following consumption of raw or undercooked beef containing viable cisticerci.

Cysticercosis

Cattle become infected by ingestion of feedstuff containing ova passed from infected humans.



Sarcocystosis

All Sarcocystis species require two hosts and a prey-predator cycle to complete their lifecycle.



Sarcocystosis

Sarcocystis hominis







Sporocysts ingested by the intermediate host (cattle for *S. hominis* and pigs for *S. suihominis*)

Copy protected with Online-PDF-No-Copy.com

By: Dr. Hassan Ekhtiarzadeh

Thanks for your attention.