

RISK FACTORS FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS TO HUMANS IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN THE STATE OF ALAGOAS

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Abstract:

The diseases brucellosis and tuberculosis are bacterial anthroponoses, transmitted by cattle to man, the butchers being the main group stricken. The goal behind this work is to verify the risk factors that contribute to the transmission of brucellosis and tuberculosis in slaughterhouses. The study was developed in slaughterhouses inspected by the municipality and state. Sixty questionnaires of investigative nature were applied, based in previous disease transmission possibilities, during and after animal slaughter and based on the level of the butchers' knowledge about the transmission and prophylaxis of the diseases. Among the risk factors investigated, the absence of individual protection equipment use and the bare hands carcass manipulation characterize as main risk in the transmission of tuberculosis and brucellosis in slaughterhouses, where 100% (60/60) of the interviewees do not utilize PPE. The observation was that the majority of the butchers 70% (42/70) have heard of tuberculosis and brucellosis. In this population, 5% (3/60) interact with people diagnosed with tuberculosis. 85% (51/60) were vaccinated with the BCG vaccine in childhood and the unvaccinated 15% (9/60) were above the age of 50. 70% (42/70) do not consume raw milk but feed on raw milk byproducts. During the visitations, 30% (18/60) of the butchers showed lingering cough for more than two weeks, along with chest pain, without seeking the health care system for diagnosis and treatment. There were tuberculosis deceases described in the workers' families or close friends 30% (18/60). In the researched population, 50% (30/60) have contact with reproductive system's secretion, aborted fetuses during slaughter, contaminated placenta and uteri. Among these, 15% (9/60) presented or had friends with some symptom of reproductive disorder. The conclusion is that the Alagoas state's butchers are subjected to eminent risks of contracting brucellosis or tuberculosis during bovine slaughter, where basic care for individual protection is not taken. Therefore, there is no orientation or investment for the prevention of diseases, having already been registered deaths due to the contraction of these diseases in slaughterhouses.

Keywords: *Brucella abortus*, epidemiology, *Mycobacterium bovis*.