

Québec

Distribution of *Streptococcus suis* capsular types in 1999

From January to December 1999, 344 streptococcal isolates were received as *Streptococcus suis* in our laboratory for serotyping. They originated from veterinary diagnostic laboratories in Quebec, with smaller numbers from other Canadian provinces and the United States. Serotyping was carried out using the coagglutination test. The distribution of capsular types of the 344 isolates is given in Table 1.

In 1999, capsular type 2 represented 15% of all the isolates, which is the lowest prevalence of this serotype in the past decade; in 1990, the prevalence of this serotype was 32% (1). Capsular types 1/2 and 3 accounted for 13% and 10% of isolates, respectively, followed by capsular types 8 (7%) and 5 (6%). Five capsular types, 1, 4, 9, 21, and 23, each had a prevalence of 4%. The percentage of untypable isolates was of 11%. Most of the time, these isolates were not capsulated upon arrival or showed autoagglutination. In our opinion, there is no justification at the present time for the characterization of new capsular types.

Table 2 compares the distribution of the 6 most prevalent *S. suis* capsular types identified between 1992 and 1999. Except for capsular type 2, variations in the

Table 1. Numerical distribution of capsular types of *Streptococcus suis* in 344 isolates recovered from diseased pigs in 1999

Capsular type	Number of isolates	%	Capsular type	Number of isolates	%
1	12	4	18	0	0
2	51	15	19	1	< 1
1/2	45	13	20	4	1
3	34	10	21	14	4
4	14	4	22	10	3
5	19	6	23	13	4
6	1	< 1	24	0	0
7	12	4	25	4	1
8	25	7	26	0	0
9	12	4	27	3	< 1
10	3	< 1	28	3	< 1
11	0	0	29	1	< 1
12	3	< 1	30	2	< 1
13	1	< 1	31	2	< 1
14	0	0	32	1	< 1
15	1	< 1	33	0	0
16	6	2	34	4	1
17	1	< 1	NT	36	11

NT = Untypable isolates

Table 2. Distribution in percentages of the 6 most prevalent *Streptococcus suis* capsular types between 1992 and 1999

Capsular type	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
2	23	19	24	18	18	18	22	15
1/2	13	8	9	14	8	11	13	13
3	13	10	10	12	14	11	12	10
4	5	3	5	8	5	5	3	4
7	7	7	6	8	10	7	6	4
8	7	8	7	7	6	7	6	7

prevalence of the serotypes identified during this period were minimal (2); this may indicate that the level of infection with *S. suis* is stable in the swine population sampled.

References

- Higgins R, Gottschalk M. Distribution of *Streptococcus suis* capsular types in 1995. *Can Vet J* 1996;37:242.
- Higgins R, Gottschalk M. Distribution of *Streptococcus suis* capsular types in 1998. *Can Vet J* 1999;40:277.

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- ◆ Straw BE, D'Allaire S, Mengeling WL, Taylor DJ. *Diseases of Swine, CD-ROM*. Iowa State University Press, Ames, 1999, ISBN 0-8138-2597-0. \$174.95 US.
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- ◆ Dolan K. *Ethics, Animals and Science*. Iowa State University Press, Ames, 1999, 302 pp. ISBN 0-632-05277-5. \$42.95 US.