



Quebec

Distribution of *Streptococcus suis* capsular types in 1996

From January to December 1996, 385 isolates of *Streptococcus suis* were received by our laboratory for serotyping. Of these, 270 were from veterinary diagnostic laboratories in Quebec and the remainder were from other Canadian provinces and the United States. Serotyping was carried out using the coagglutination test. The capsular types of the 385 isolates are given in Table 1.

Capsular type 2 was the most prevalent serotype (18%), followed in decreasing order by capsular types 3, 7, 1/2, 8, 23, and 4. Capsular types 6, 14, 15, 20, 25, 26, 32, and 33 were not found in 1996. The distribution of the capsular types of isolates received from Canadian provinces other than Quebec and from the United States was similar to that of the Quebec isolates.

Table 2 compares the distribution of the 7 most prevalent *S. suis* capsular types between 1990 and 1996. As reported in past years, more than 60% of isolates belong to capsular types 2, 1/2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 (1). A recent paper from Scotland (2) reported a predominance of capsular type 2 in that country; capsular type 14, which is very rare in North America, was also reported as prevalent in pigs in Scotland.

In our study, the number of untypeable isolates was high, but some isolates were either not capsulated on arrival at our laboratory or showed autoagglutination. Also, since biochemical tests are not always carried out on all specimens from other laboratories, one cannot assume that they were all *S. suis* species.

References

- Higgins R, Gottschalk M. Distribution of *Streptococcus suis* capsular types in 1995. *Can Vet J* 1996; 37: 242.
- MacLennan M, Foster G, Dick K, Smith WJ, Nielsen B. *Streptococcus suis* serotypes 7, 8 and 14 from diseased pigs in Scotland. *Vet Rec* 1996; 139: 423-424.

Table 1. Numerical distribution of capsular types of *Streptococcus suis* in 385 isolates recovered from diseased pigs in 1996

Capsular Type	Number of isolates	%	Capsular type	Number of isolates	%
1	8	2	18	5	1
2	70	18	19	4	1
1/2	30	8	20	0	0
3	55	14	21	1	<1
4	20	5	22	2	<1
5	16	4	23	10	2
6	0	0	24	3	<1
7	38	10	25	0	0
8	22	6	26	0	0
9	5	1	27	2	<1
10	2	<1	28	1	<1
11	2	<1	29	3	<1
12	2	<1	30	1	<1
13	1	<1	31	2	<1
14	0	0	32	0	0
15	0	0	33	0	0
16	11	3	34	1	<1
17	3	<1	NT	63	16

NT = Untypeable isolates

Table 2. Distribution in percentages of the 6 most prevalent *Streptococcus suis* capsular types between 1990 and 1996

Capsular type	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
2	32	21	23	19	24	18	18
1/2	9	12	13	8	9	14	8
3	14	12	13	10	10	12	14
4	4	4	5	3	5	8	5
7	3	7	7	7	6	8	10
8	7	6	7	8	7	7	6

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