Quebec

Distribution of *Streptococcus suis* capsular types in Canada in 1992

From January to December 1992, 591 streptococcal isolates were submitted as *Streptococcus suis* for serotyping. Of these, 467 originated from the clinical bacteriology laboratory of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Montreal and from provincial laboratories in Quebec. The other 124 isolates were received from laboratories in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Manitoba. Serotyping was carried out using antisera prepared against 30 serotypes with coagglutination and capsular reaction techniques. Isolates that did not type were tested with 14 biochemical tests; 43 of 45 appeared to be different from *S. suis*. The distribution according to capsular type of the 548 isolates of *S. suis* is given in Table 1.

Capsular type 2 was the most prevalent serotype (23%), followed in decreasing order by capsular types 1/2, 3, 7, and 8. Serotypes 14, 20, and 26 were not found in 1992. The latter two were also absent in 1991 (1). The distribution of capsular type isolates originating from different provinces was similar. Eight percent of isolates did not belong to any of the known capsular types. **It is noteworthy that the percentage of several capsular types, such as 1/2, 3, 8, 22, and 23, are very similar to those reported in 1991 (1), indicating some stability in the distribution of *S. suis* capsular types in swine in Canada.**

Table 1. Numerical distribution of capsular types of *Streptococcus suis* in 548 isolates recovered from diseased pigs in Canada in 1992

Capsular type	Number of isolates	%	Capsular type	Number of isolates	%
1	3	<1	17	2	<1
2	127	23	18	9	2
1/2	70	13	19	6	1
3	72	13	20	0	0
4	29	5	21	1	<1
5	15	3	22	14	2
6	1	<1	23	12	2
7	38	7	24	2	<1
8	38	7	25	8	1
9	19	3	26	0	0
10	5	<1	27	1	<1
11	6	1	28	4	<1
12	1	<1	29	2	<1
13	1	<1	30	3	<1
14	0	0	31	2	<1
15	5	<1	NT	45	8
16	7	1			

NT = Untypable strains

Reference

1. Higgins R, Gottschalk M. Distribution of *Streptococcus suis* capsular types in Canada in 1991. Can Vet J 1992; 33: 406.

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Ontario

Winter death syndrome (exposure and starvation) in deer

Six mature red deer (*Cevus elaphus*) died on two farms (four in herd A; two in herd B) over a period of 36 hours, commencing February 24, 1993. Five animals (three from A; two from B) were submitted to the Huron Park veterinary diagnostic laboratory for necropsy. A seventh (herd A) died two weeks later and was also necropsied. Animals ranged in age from eight months to four years. Four of the five from herd A were female, both from herd B were male. Herd A had 180 animals and had been in operation for about five years. Herd B had 60 animals and had been in operation for about four years. Animals in both herds were supplemented with hay and grain over the winter months.

Necropsy findings were similar in all six animals examined. They were in poor bodily condition. Large tufts of hair had been plucked bilaterally from the thorax and abdomen, and along the back. This alopecia, verging on denudation in several of the animals, was sometimes accompanied by bruising. Subcutaneous edema, varying amounts of amber-colored fluid (up to 400 mL in the thorax and abdomen) and serious atrophy of fat were consistent findings. Each rumen was about a third-to-half filled with roughage. There were no other significant gross findings. There were no significant histological findings. Skin scrapings were negative for parasites. A few to moderate numbers of gastrointestinal nematode