to be a constant property of *S. felis*, whereas it is not for strains of *S. simulans* recovered from cats and dogs (1).

Using the Kirby-Bauer method, we found that our isolates were susceptible to many antibacterial agents including penicillin. According to Igimi *et al* (1), all isolates of *S. felis* were highly susceptible to penicillin and ampicillin. They were also susceptible to erythromycin and chloramphenicol, and only one of 12 isolates was resistant to oxytetracycline (1). Coagulase-negative staphylcocci have not received a great deal of attention in veterinary medicine. Studies have been focused on the coagulase-positive species, but other members of this genus could also have a well-defined pathogenicity. The aim of this report is to make laboratory diagnosticians aware of interest in identifying significant coagulase-negative isolates.

Reference

1. Igimi S, Kawamura S, Takahashi E, Mitsuoka T. *Staphylococcus felis*, a new species from clinical specimens from cats. Int J Syst Bacteriol 1989; 39: 373–377.

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Ontario

Proliferative and necrotizing pneumonia (PNP) of swine: the Ontario situation

Morin *et al* (1) have recently described a new type of pneumonia that has occurred in pigs in Quebec since the fall of 1988. The cause is unknown. On October 15, 1990, pathologists at the Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch, Guelph Laboratory, initially diagnosed this disease in two suckling pigs. As of January 4, 1991, an additional eight cases have been identified. These cases have involved eight farms and included 15 pigs. Feeder and farrowing enterprises have been approximately equally represented. One half of the affected pigs have been less than six weeks old (13 kg). The majority of the remainder have been less than 16 weeks old, with only one affected six-month-old gilt submitted. Histological lesions were similar to those described previously (1). They were complicated by secondary bacterial and mycoplasmal involvement and by differing appearance, which may be related to the stage of infection.

In Ontario, direct fluorescent antibody stains of lungs for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza A, influenza B, porcine respiratory coronavirus (PRCV), parainfluenza virus type 3 (PI3), and measles virus have been negative. Numerous attempts to isolate virus have recovered only porcine parvovirus from the lung of one pig. Acute and convalescent sera from affected swine from a single farm have demonstrated no seroconversion or significant four-fold rises in antibody titers for RSV, swine influenza (H1N1, H3N2), PRCV, PI3 or encephalomyocarditis virus.

Lungs of two of eight consignments have been positive in fluorescent antibody tests for *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*. *Mycoplasma arginini* and *M. hyorhinis* have been isolated from four of seven, and from six of seven consignments, respectively. Various bacterial pathogens have been isolated from lungs, particularly from those that have had features of concurrent suppurative bronchopneumonia.

Because PNP in swine is presently of unknown cause, laboratory diagnosis depends on pathological findings. This disease has now occurred sporadically in eight herds in Ontario. However, unlike the situation in Quebec, PNP in Ontario does not appear to be a significant cause of sudden or persistent production losses, at least at this stage of its recognition.

Reference

1. Morin M, Girard C, ElAzhary Y, Fajardo R, Drolet R, Lagace A. Severe proliferative and necrotizing pneumonia in pigs: A newly recognized disease. Can Vet J 1990; 31: 837–839.

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