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MRSA in livestock animals-an epidemic waiting to happen?

Wulf, M. and A. Voss (2008)

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Abstract

Screening of pig farmers and pigs in The Netherlands has revealed that >20% of pig farmers and 39% of slaughterhouse pigs are positive for an unusual strain of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) belonging to sequence type (ST) 398. It is now clear that the emergence of ST398 is not just a Dutch problem, with human infections being described in several European countries, Canada and Singapore. Furthermore, some human isolates have now acquired the genes encoding Panton-Valentine leukocidin. Livestock may become an important source of community-acquired MRSA. A concerted effort on the part of clinicians, infection control practitioners and veterinarians will be required to prevent further spread of this novel strain of MRSA.

Keywords:

Pig; Europe; zoonosis; Animals

Animals, Domestic/ microbiology

Community-Acquired Infections/ epidemiology/prevention &

control/veterinary

Disease Outbreaks

Disease Reservoirs/ veterinary

Humans

Methicillin Resistance

Netherlands/epidemiology

Staphylococcal Infections/ epidemiology/prevention & control/veterinary

Staphylococcus aureus/ drug effects

Sus scrofa

Swine Diseases/epidemiology.

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