Abstract (poster session)

Creation of the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) project
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Objectives: The ESVAC project was launched in 2009 following a request from the European Commission to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to establish a surveillance program for the collection of data on the sales of veterinary antimicrobial agents in the EU. The purpose is to obtain valid and standardised data for risk profiling, setting risk management priorities and to assess the impact of recommendations on responsible use of antimicrobials for animals. Methods: In 2009, a pilot project was set up, including an advisory group consisting of representatives from already existing national surveillance programs. Representatives from ECDC, EFSA and ESAC (European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption in man) were also involved in order to harmonise surveillance of consumption and antimicrobial resistance across the human and veterinary sectors. The pilot project defined the ESVAC protocol and form for data collection and submission, following recommendations from international organizations such as WHO and OIE. To document the situation of antimicrobial consumption in animals, including agents critically important for humans, the project collected aggregated, retrospective data from 9 countries. In 2011, the project sent its first call for data collection to the EU countries. Results: The ESVAC protocol and data collection form have been developed (www.ema.europa.eu). The annual sales data will be collected as the number of packages for each antimicrobial product, including the product's details and linked to the ATCvet classification. A technical unit for estimating the animal population potential exposed to treatment with antimicrobials has been created: The Population Correction Unit (PCU) taking into account weight at treatment and import/export of animals. Eighteen European Countries have already delivered data for 2010 using the ESVAC protocol. In parallel, ESVAC analysed 5 years of aggregated data from 9 countries Conclusions: ESVAC developed a standardised protocol for collecting sales data for veterinary antimicrobial agents and an indicator for measuring the animal population potentially exposed to antimicrobial treatment. In 2011, 9 of 18 countries delivering data started collecting such data for the first time. During 2011 two workstreams on collection of harmonised data per animal species in order to obtain use per species and on the development of standardised units of measurement have been initiated.