

P990

Abstract (poster session)

Outbreak of Salmonella Poona among infants during 2011 in the Vallès region, Catalonia, Spain

M.R. Sala Farré, C. Arias Varela, A. Recasens Recasens, L. Corominas Farres, M. Simó Sanahuja*, M. Olsina Tebar, A. Martínez Planells, J. Pardos Bosch, C. Martí Sala (Terrassa, Girona, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Granollers, ES)

Objective: In 2010 the National Centre of Epidemiology (Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid) detected an increase of Salmonella enterica serotype Poona (SP), mostly on infants aged under one year suggesting a transmission from formula milk, but until February 2011 it was not informed state wide. Salmonella isolates are only reported for some laboratories and on a voluntary basis. The aim of this study is to describe the epidemiological investigation of the SP outbreak in the Vallès Occidental and Vallès Oriental region, with 1.283.000 inhabitants at the Barcelona northern metropolitan area. **Methods:** A case was defined as an infant with symptoms compatible with a Salmonella infection and SP isolate from a clinical specimen. The health centres were alerted and encouraged for the ESUVV to inform about any presumptive case. Data about demographic, clinical and food consumption was collected. Salmonella strains from patients and formula milk recipients provided by their parents were analysed by pulse-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) by the PHAC laboratory since February 2011. **Results:** Until April 2011, 28 cases were reported to ESUVV: 2 in 2010 and 26 in 2011, 75% of the cases were under 5 months. All the cases had diarrhoea (67% bloody diarrhoea), 5 were hospitalised, one case needed intensive care. All cases had consumed the same batch of a milk brand. SP was cultured from two milk cans. All SP strains had the same PFGE. It was the first time during the outbreak that SP was isolated from a not manipulated recipient. These findings let the Spanish food safety authorities recall the batch of milk, source of the infection. The last case was in April 2011. **Conclusions:** The investigation of this outbreak shows the usefulness of information management and active surveillance at regional level. Microbiological reporting should be mandatory, together with the establishment of a Salmonella data bank in order to identify and investigate clusters of cases.