one bilioma). In addition, in one neighbouring hospital, cross-transmission has also been observed.

All the KPC-Kp isolates were identical to a previously identified K. pneumoniae ST258-type clone that is epidemic in Greece, Israel and the USA, as revealed by PFGE, plasmid analysis, multilocus sequence typing and Tn4401 transposon typing.\(^2,^8\) PCR experiments, followed by sequencing, identified additional \(\beta\)-lactamase genes coding for the naturally occurring narrow-spectrum SHV-11, the plasmid-encoded narrow-spectrum TEM-1 and extended-spectrum SHV-12.

In France, KPC-Kp remain rare and, to date, have always been linked to patient transfer from a country where KPC-Kp are endemic.\(^2\) This is the first KPC-Kp outbreak in France and the first worldwide to be linked to a contaminated endoscope. Although the risk of endoscopy-related infection is low,\(^6\) changes to endoscope reprocessing, by replacing a glutaraldehyde decontamination bath with an automated peracetic acid washer (to prevent Creutzfeldt–Jacob transmission), may have been deleterious to the endoscope. However, careful checking of the endoscope by the instrument’s manufacturer did not reveal any obvious signs of degradation. Careful auditing of endoscope reprocessing revealed two possible explanations for the contamination: (i) the pre-wash of the endoscope may have been delayed 24 h, thus resulting in drying of the device; and (ii) after the peracetic wash, the drying procedure was not long enough for the novel automated washer, thus the endoscope was not completely dried. In light of this outbreak, new local guidelines for endoscope reprocessing have been established, taking into account the specificities of the new automated peracetic acid washer. Microbiological testing of endoscopes, performed until now twice a year, will now be undertaken on a more frequent basis.

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Transparency declarations

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References


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Absence of extended-spectrum \(\beta\)-lactamase-producing Escherichia coli isolates in migratory birds: song thrush (Turdus philomelos)

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Sir, In recent years, the emergence and dissemination of extended-spectrum \(\beta\)-lactamases (ESBLs) among clinical Escherichia coli isolates in human medicine has become a cause of great concern, as this mechanism of resistance is implicated in treatment failure.\(^4\) Previous reports have demonstrated the presence of ESBL-producing \(E.\) coli in faecal samples of wild animals in Portugal.\(^2,^3\) The occurrence of ESBL-producing \(E.\) coli in wild animals has potential implications for veterinary medicine and human public health as these animals may serve as a source for the transmission of resistant organisms to other animals or even humans.

One hundred and fifty-four thrushes were captured by hunting associations in the north of Portugal between November 2009 and February 2010, during the thrush hunting season. This hunting is supervised by the Agriculture, Rural Development and...
Fishery Ministry of Portugal under the Decree-Law no. 202/2004. After necropsy, faecal samples were obtained from the colon of each thrush and stored individually in plastic sterile tubes. Samples were immediately transferred to peptone water and processed within 24 h of receipt in the laboratory. The faecal samples were screened for the presence of bacteria producing ESBLs using Levine agar (Oxoid Limited, Basingstoke, UK) supplemented with 2 mg/L cefotaxime (Levine-CTX; Sigma-Aldrich Co, St Louis, MO, USA) and incubated for 24 h at 27°C. For each batch of Levine agar supplemented with cefotaxime, ESBL-producing E. coli-positive controls, from the strain collection of the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, were used.

No ESBL producers were detected in the 154 thrush faecal samples, contrary to our initial expectations, in view of the marked presence of ESBL-producing E. coli in other wild birds, particularly buzzards,2 and other animals such as wild boars.2 The current absence of ESBL-producing E. coli in thrushes can possibly be explained by the feeding habits of this bird, where the diet is based mainly on invertebrates and soft fruit and berries.4 In addition, the absence of ESBL-producing E. coli may also be related to the fact that thrushes are migratory birds, leaving the Baltic region in the autumn and returning in early spring,5 having a relative short stay in Portugal. Previous studies have confirmed that in most northern European countries, the prevalence of ESBL producers in human clinical medicine is relatively low and have not reported isolates from animals in contrast to southern European countries.6 This communication may contrast with the usual pessimistic reports of increasing prevalence of bacterial resistance. Additional studies should be carried out in the future with different types of wild animal to evaluate the dissemination of ESBLs in different ecosystems and animal populations.

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References