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Veterinarni Medicina

Prevalence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in milk, meat and foodstuff of animal origin and the phenotype of antibiotic resistance of isolated strains

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In 2000–2002 samples of raw materials (milk and beef, 518 samples), ready-to-cook foods and final products from milk (30 and 200 samples) and from meat (105 and 110 samples) and swabs from surfaces in two meat-processing plants (41 samples) were examined for the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* (*L. monocytogenes*). 70 isolates were tested using the standard microdilution method for the susceptibility to 12 antimicrobial drugs, minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) characteristics (MIC_m , MIC_{50} , MIC_{90}) were determined. *L. monocytogenes* was isolated from raw

milk samples (15 samples). It was not isolated from any of the semi-finished and final milk products except for one sample of pasteurized milk. Furthermore *L. monocytogenes* was isolated from samples of raw beef, meat emulsion, fermented dry meat products and from swabs from production equipment. *In vitro* testing of susceptibility showed the considerable effectiveness of examined antimicrobial substances with streptomycin and norfloxacin being least effective ($MIC_m = 4 \mu\text{g/ml}$). Apart from the intermediate resistance ($MIC = 1-2 \mu\text{g/ml}$) and resistance ($MIC = 4 \mu\text{g/ml}$) to clindamycin (37 and 5 strains, respectively), all strains were susceptible to the tested substances. While the presence of *L. monocytogenes* in foodstuffs, in particular, are serious, current tests of susceptibility of *L. monocytogenes* isolates indicate low probability untreatable infections as a result of resistant strains from foods or transfer of resistance to other microorganisms in the Czech Republic.

Keywords:

pathogenic bacteria; acquired resistance;
food safety

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