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Typhoid fever (salmonellosis) as a public health problem by consuming meat and eggs of the carrier birds

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Salmonellosis is a food borne zoonotic problem through out the world. It is caused by *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium*. These organisms remain carrier for indefinite time in the infected species after the recovery from disease (during the convalescent phase). The carrier state was a source of spread of disease in poultry and humans. The chain of transmission started from poultry meat and eggs and ultimately to humans as dead end hosts. The objective of this study was to characterize the fecal shedding and peripheral blood prevalence of *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium* in Pakistani people with clinical signs of typhoid fever to assess the public health problem of salmonellosis through consumption of meat and eggs from the carrier birds.

Methods: In this experiment, 200 samples of human stool and blood were collected. 100 of stool and 100 of blood were analyzed from 100 patients suspected to have typhoid fever. The subjects were included from four different hospitals of Lahore area for identification of *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium* through Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

Results: On average 14% and 10% samples of stool were found contaminated with *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium* of suspected typhoid fever patients, respectively. Similarly on average 6% and 2% blood samples were found positive for *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*, respectively.

Conclusion: It was concluded that humans consume poultry meat and eggs and thus *Salmonella* species particularly *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium* may transmit from poultry products to the humans and cause typhoid fever, in addition to *Salmonella typhi*.

Biography

Muhammad Younus has completed his PhD in 2006 from University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore and has done his Postdoctoral studies in 2008 from University of Minnesota, USA. He is the Principal of College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Jhang (sub-campus of UVAS, Lahore). He has published more than 102 research papers in peer reviewed journals. He has worked on epidemiological and public health aspect of salmonellosis and tuberculosis.

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