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SALMONELLOSIS IN 2007 AND 2008

From the beginning of 2007 through September 2008, a total of 37 patients were diagnosed with salmonellosis considered to be domestically acquired, according to data from the Dept. of Microbiology at the Landspítali University Hospital. The majority of the cases, or 29 out of 37, were inhabitants of the Reykjavik Capital Area.

In 2007, 16 patients out of 93 were diagnosed with a domestically acquired salmonellosis. In January through September 2008, 21 cases of salmonellosis were considered to be of domestic origin out of a total of 131 cases diagnosed that year. The increase between the two years is caused

by two outbreaks in 2008; the first one, caused by *Salmonella poona*, occurred in June in a residential home for the elderly in the Capital Area and the second one, caused by *Salmonella enteritidis* in August and September among Icelandic tourists travelling to the Greek island of Rhodes.

For unknown reasons the domestic serotypes vary considerably between years. In 2007, sporadic cases of *Salmonella enteritidis* were diagnosed whereas in 2008 sporadic cases of *Salmonella typhimurium* were identified (cf. table 2). Furthermore, *Salmonella* strains from some cases in 2007 could not be serotyped at the microbiology department.

**Number of domestically acquired salmonellosis cases
by month, 2007 through September 2008**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2007	0	0	1	0	1	3	3	2	3	3	0	0	16
2008	0	0	1	1	1	10	1	7	0				21
Total	0	0	2	1	2	13	4	9	3				

**Number of diagnosed serotypes of domestically acquired salmonellosis
by month, 2007 through September 2008**

Serotype	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
S. enteritidis	2007	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
	2008	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0			
S. typhimurium	2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	2008	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	0			
S. poona	2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2008	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0			
S. species*	2007	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0
	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Other**	2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0
	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0			

* The definitive identification of the serotypes proved unsuccessful; it is unknown whether the strains were of the same serotype.

** Two cases caused by *S. saintpaul* on the one hand and *S. stanley* on the other. One case caused by *S. java*, *S. montevideo*, *S. newport*, *S. paratyphi*, and *S. shubra*.

HIV AND HEPATITIS B AND C IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2008

All three cases of HIV diagnosed in the first half of 2008 are of foreign descent.

HIV

In the first six months of this year, three individuals were diagnosed as HIV positive, the same number as last year in the same period. All the cases diagnosed in the period are of foreign descent.

Hepatitis B

In the first six months of this year, a far greater number of people have been diagnosed with hepatitis B than in the corresponding period of 2007, or 38 cases as compared with 19. Twelve of this year's cases are foreigners (32%), which is somewhat unusual since immigrants have made up the majority of hepatitis B cases diagnosed in recent years (cf. [EPI-ICE, May 2008](#)). Among immigrants hepatitis B is

most often a chronic infection caused by a perinatal infection in countries where the disease is endemic. The increase observed this year among Icelanders is therefore a further indication of a possible increase in IV substance abuse and an irresponsible use of syringes and needles among addicts sharing contaminated equipment.

Hepatitis C

As before a large number of people are diagnosed with hepatitis C in Iceland. In the first half of this year, 41 cases of the infection were diagnosed, a similar number as in the same period of 2007. Six of these were of foreign descent. The majority of all patients diagnosed with hepatitis C are IV drug abusers.

Number of cases diagnosed with HIV and hepatitis B and C in the first six months of 2007 and 2008

Disease	1.1.–30.6. 2007	1.1.–30.6. 2008
HIV	3	3
Hepatitis B	19	38
Hepatitis C	40	41

From the beginning of 2007 through September 2008, a total of 37 patients were diagnosed with domestically acquired salmonellosis.

VIRUS INFECTIONS DIAGNOSED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2008

Respiratory tract infections

From the beginning of September 2008 until 20 October, most respiratory infections diagnosed at the Dept. of Microbiology at the Landspítali University Hospital were caused by adenovirus, found in 36% of the cases. Other causes were enterovirus, parainfluenza, CMV and herpes simplex. At the end of August 2008, one case of influenza B was diagnosed in a child and in the beginning of September another child was diagnosed with influenza A, but no further cases have been found since then. The seasonal influenza, therefore, has not yet emerged in Iceland so

there is still time for people to have an influenza vaccination.

Gastrointestinal infections

Twenty-two patients with gastrointestinal infections were diagnosed with calicivirus (norovirus), two with astrovirus, one with adenovirus and one with rotavirus since the beginning of September 2008. Calicivirus is therefore the main cause of the gastroenteritis outbreak among both children and adults that has been observed in the past few weeks.