

***Mycobacterium bovis* in slaughtered swine: the public health implication for Mubende district of Uganda**

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Tuberculosis caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* is a persistent but evolving complex problem whose eradication has eluded some of the least and most developed countries in the world. In most developing countries, animal TB is endemic but with little available information on the relationship between *M. bovis* infection in animals and the disease in humans. Given that the transmission route or pattern from swine to human is unclear, this is a cause for concern in predominantly pork eating populations especially those infected with HIV/AIDS. Mubende is a district in central Uganda with an HIV/AIDS prevalence of 18% and home one of the highest free range reared pig populations. Therefore this study was aimed at establishing the prevalence of *M. bovis* among slaughtered pigs in this district, furthermore, to establish the potential risk to the human population. Out of the one hundred and fifty pigs sampled from the slaughtered population, Only three (2%) were found to have *M. bovis* in mesenteric lymph nodes after mycobacteriology. Further molecular analysis revealed that the isolates belonged to spoligotype SBX and lineage Y. The parallel survey conducted at Mubende hospital on suspected TB patients to establish the potential risk revealed that 213/344 (62%) of the interviewed patients consumed pork, furthermore, 72% and 75% of pork consumers were young and HIV positive while. 45% of the interviewed reared pigs as livestock and 21% of these used pig fecal material as garden manure. *M. bovis* was isolated for the first time from slaughtered pigs in Uganda. This is of public health concern in this predominantly pork eating populations especially among the HIV/AIDS infected individuals.