

RISK FACTORS FOR SPORADIC *YERSINIA ENTEROCOLITICA* INFECTIONS IN NORWAY: A CASE-CONTROL STUDY

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Few controlled epidemiological studies have been performed to investigate the sources of sporadic human infections with *Y. enterocolitica*. Although there is strong indirect evidence that pork is a major source of infection, pathogenic *Y. enterocolitica* have rarely been isolated from retail pork. During 1988-90, a case-control study was conducted in southeastern Norway to identify risk factors and guide control and prevention efforts. A total of 67 bacteriologically confirmed cases and 132 controls matched by age, sex, and geographic region were enrolled in the study. The following factors were found to be independently associated with an increased risk of yersiniosis using conditional logistic regression analysis: frequency of consumption of pork products, frequency of consumption of sausages, general preference for eating meat prepared raw or rare, and drinking untreated water. The results strengthen the evidence that sporadic yersiniosis may result from consumption of pork products. Our findings suggest that preventive measures should be directed towards: reducing *Y. enterocolitica* contamination of pork, educating consumers about proper handling and preparation of pork products, and providing consumers with drinking water of adequate hygienic quality.

