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TRICHINELLA INFECTION IN SERBIA AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

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Introduction: In Serbia and some Southeastern Europe (SEE) countries Trichinellosis is one of the most important foodborne zoonotic diseases. In Serbia first human case was in 1923 in Zemun. Modern pork production systems, implemented control measures, artificial digestion method have eliminated farm pork as a source for trichinellosis.

Methods: Epidemiological data from the last decades indicate that the number of human cases as well as the number of infected animals has decreased significantly in Serbia as well as in other SEE countries.

Results: Over the years, pork was the most frequent source of human Trichinellosis in Serbia. Cases generally occurred in family outbreaks and risk is linked to untested backyard pork consumption. Meat and meat products offered to relatives and friends may be source of infection with Trichinella when backyard pigs are raised without any compliance with hygienic rules and animals are not veterinary tested. In most numbers of outbreaks in Serbia T. spiralis were the etiological agent of infection but in 2016 we had a large outbreak provoked by consumption of wild boar meat containing T. britovi larvae. In addition to T. spiralis, three more species present in Europe are reported in SEE countries also (T. britovi, T. nativa and T. pseudospiralis).

Conclusions: According to epidemiological data it is important that hunters and consumers of backyard pigs and wild game meat should be educated about the risk associated with consumption of untested meat. Also, full integration of veterinary and public health efforts, i.e. the one health concept is very important in all countries. Acknowledgment: Ministry of Education Science and Technological Development of Serbia, contract numbers: 451-03-68/2022-14/ 200019 and 451-03-9/2021-14/200143.

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