

Occurrence of vancomycin-resistant enterococci in chickens in Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Cloacal swabs from 1097 and 604 commercial and free range village chickens, respectively, were analysed to determine the occurrence of vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE). Results revealed that *Enterococcus faecalis* and *E. faecium* were the predominant vancomycin-resistant species isolated from commercial chickens. 83 samples of *Enterococcus* sp. isolated from the free range chickens were vancomycin resistant. It is suggested that the high rate of VRE in poultry is linked to the use of avoparcin as a feed additive in commercial farms.

Keyword: antibiotic acaricides, avoparcin, drug resistance, growth promoters, poultry, resistance mechanisms, vancomycin