Pig-related infections

D. Raoult
Unité de Recherche sur les Maladies Infectieuses et Tropicales Émergentes, Faculté de Médecine, URMITE CNRS-IRD 198 UMR 6236, Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France
E-mail: didier.raoult@gmail.com

Article published online: 29 April 2013

Pork is one of the main foods whose consumption is prohibited, e.g. by Muslims and Jews. The consumption of pork carries very easily identifiable risks of infection, e.g. trichinosis, which is a very painful specific disease that can appear especially after raw pork consumption [1]. Many other pathogens have developed within pigs, and can be transmitted to humans. This is the case for the H1N1 virus that spread in the last pandemic [2]; pork is also the source of numerous bacterial infections, including that by multiresistant Staphylococcus aureus found in The Netherlands [3].

This is also the case for hepatitis E; we showed that the major source of infection in the south of France was the pork liver sausage called figatelli [4]. We considered it important to assess current pig-related infections from cultural, infectious and microbiological perspectives.

This thematic issue was coordinated by Georgios Pappas; it contains a review on all pig-related infections and their cultural aspects [5]; a review on trichinosis [1]; a review on the cultural elements related to pigs in Polynesia [6]; and, finally, a review on the role of pork in the epidemiology of hepatitis E virus [7]. The gathering of these subjects provides a thematic approach that, I believe, is original and links the cultures of society and science.

References