

Title: A case control study of risk factors for Campylobacter infection in Australia

Keyword: Epidemiology of Campylobacter

Study: Campylobacteriosis is the most frequently notified foodborne disease in Australia.

The reported incidence of campylobacteriosis in Australia has steadily increased during the past decade, from 77.4/100,000 population in 1991 (8813 cases) to 125.2/100,000 in 2001 (16,124 cases). Studies conducted outside of Australia have identified several food-based risk factors including the consumption of , cross-contamination from or handling of raw or undercooked poultry and consumption of unpasteurised dairy products. However, data from Australia is limited with only one epidemiological study being conducted to determine risk factors for Campylobacter infection among young children aged less than three years. A large case control study of Campylobacter infection among all ages is needed to identify potential risk factors in the Australian setting, thereby providing a basis for public health interventions. This study was designed as a national, multicentre, case-control study of sporadic Campylobacter infection among adults and children. The study aims to identify dietary, environmental and behavioral risk factors for Campylobacter infection in Australia, to examine age-specific and region-specific risk factors, to identify risk factors associated with specific subtypes of Campylobacter jejuni species and to determine the antibiotic susceptibility patterns of Campylobacter strains in Australia.

This is the first national study of risk factors associated with sporadic Campylobacter infection in Australia. Data was collected over a twelve month period during 2001/2002. The methods and epidemiological findings from this study will be presented.

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