Brucellosis in the Mediterranean countries: history, prevalence, distribution, current situation and attempts at surveillance and control

Coordinated by G. Wareth

Brucellosis is a highly contagious zoonosis of significance for public health and economic performance in both endemic and non-endemic countries. Historically, brucellosis was recognised for the first time in the Mediterranean region and it is hypothesised that it subsequently spread worldwide. It is associated in humans with poor food hygiene, is transmitted by direct and indirect contact with animals and crosses international boundaries with relative ease. In resource-limited nations, brucellosis is often a very common but neglected disease. Diagnosis and control of brucellosis is still a challenge. This review focuses on the historical and current status of the disease in the 23 countries with coastlines along the Mediterranean. This work is mainly based on information collected and provided by local authorities, governmental bodies and National Reference Laboratories for Brucellosis, as well as national experts in each country. National and international studies from each country were reviewed and scientific output published in peer-reviewed journals was included. Moreover, data published in local languages and not internationally available have also been included.
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Gamal Wareth\(^{(1,2)}\), Ahmed Abdeen\(^{(2)}\), Haytham Ali\(^{(3,4)}\), Svetlana Bardenstein\(^{(5)}\), José-María Blasco\(^{(6)}\), Regina Cardoso\(^{(7)}\), Maria Inácia Corrêa De Sá\(^{(7)}\), Željko Čvetnić\(^{(8)}\), Fabrizio de Massis\(^{(9)}\), Mohamed El-Diasty\(^{(10)}\), Loukia Ekateriniadou\(^{(11)}\), Sevil Erdenlig Gürbilek\(^{(12)}\), Ana Cristina Ferreira\(^{(7,22)}\), Bruno Garin-Bastuji\(^{(13)}\), Giuliano Garofolo\(^{(9)}\), Mahmoud E.R. Hamdy\(^{(10)}\), Jihène Hellal\(^{(14)}\), Arla Juma\(^{(15)}\), Aris Katsiolis\(^{(16)}\), Xhelil Koleci\(^{(15)}\), David Kornspan\(^{(3)}\), Brane Krt\(^{(17)}\), Dejan Laušević\(^{(18)}\), Falk Melzer\(^{(1)}\), Shawky Moustafa\(^{(2)}\), John Njeru\(^{(19)}\), Matjaž Ocepek\(^{(17)}\), Flavio Sacchini\(^{(9)}\), Sonia Sakhria\(^{(14)}\), Sabina Šerić-Haračić\(^{(20)}\), Silvio Špičić\(^{(8)}\), Lisa D. Sprague\(^{(1)}\), Manuela Tittarelli\(^{(9)}\), Sara Villari\(^{(21)}\) & Heinrich Neubauer\(^{(1)}\).
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Author contributions

G. Wareth designed and coordinated the study, wrote the first draft of the manuscript, got approval for publication and was responsible for all correspondence with coauthors and the OIE. H. Neubauer, F. Melzer, L.D. Sprague, B. Garin-Bastuji, J.M. Blasco and S. Moustafa participated in the design and coordination of the study and took part drafting the manuscript. The following authors contributed to the draft part of the following countries: G. Wareth, M. El-Diasty, M. Hamdy, H. Ali and A. Abdeen (Egypt, Libya, Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Syria and Cyprus); J. Hellal and S. Sakhría (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco); M.-I. Corrêa de Sá, A.-C. Ferreira and R. Cardoso (Portugal); M. Tittarelli, G. Garofolo, F. Sacchini and F. De Massis (Italy); S. Villari (Lebanon and Malta); J.M. Blasco (Spain); B. Garin-Bastuji (France); B. Krt and M. Ocepek (Slovenia); S. Šerić-Haračić (Bosnia and Herzegovina); S. Špičić, Ž. Cvetnić and J. Njeru (Croatia); X. Koleci and A. Juma (Albania); S. Bardenstein and D. Kornspan (Israel); S. Erdenliğ-Gürbilek (Turkey); D. Laušević (Montenegro); A. Katsiolis and L. Ekateriniadou (Greece). All authors reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript for publication.
Addresses of authors

Corresponding author: gamal.wareth@fli.de

1. National/OIE Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Institute of Bacterial Infections and Zoonoses, Naumburger Str. 96a, 07743 Jena, Germany
2. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Benha University, Moshtohor, Toukh 13736, Egypt
3. Department of Pathology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagazig University, Zagazig 44511, Egypt
4. Department of Animal & Veterinary Sciences, College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, PO Box 34, Al-Khoud 123, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
5. National/OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis, Kimron Veterinary Institute, Bet Dagan 50250, Israel
6. Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria de Aragón (CITA), Instituto Agroalimentario de Aragón (IA2), Universidad de Zaragoza, 50059 Zaragoza, Spain
7. National Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis, Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária (INIAV), Av. da República, Quinta do Marquês, 2784-505 Oeiras, Portugal
8. National Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis, Croatian Veterinary Institute, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
9. National/OIE Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise ‘G. Caporale’, 64100 Teramo, Italy
10. Brucellosis Research Department, Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI), Nadi El-Said Str. 7, Dokki, 12618 Giza, Egypt
11. Hellenic Agricultural Organization – DEMETER, Veterinary Research Institute, Campus of Thermi, 57001 Thermi, Greece
12. Microbiology Department, Veterinary Faculty, University of Harran, 63200 Eyyubiye Sanliurfa, Turkey
13. French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES), 94700 Maisons-Alfort, France
14. Institut de la recherche Vétérinaire de Tunisie (IRVT/IRESA), La Rabta, 1006 Tunis, Tunisia
15. National Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis, Food Safety and Veterinary Institute, Tirana, Albania
16. Department of Zoonoses, Animal Health Directorate, Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Athens, Greece
17. Institute for Microbiology and Parasitology, Veterinary Faculty, University of Ljubljana, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.
18. Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro
19. Centre for Microbiology Research, Kenya Medical Research Institute, PO Box 19464-00202, Nairobi, Kenya
20. Animal Health Economics Department, Veterinary Faculty, University of Sarajevo, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
21. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia ‘A. Mirri’, 90129 Palermo, Italy
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