

October 11-12, 2018
Edinburgh, Scotland

J Vet Med Surg 2018, Volume 2
DOI: 10.4172/2574-2868-C1-003

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE PROFILES OF *ENTEROCOCCUS* SPECIES IN CHICKEN AT SLAUGHTER LEVEL

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Enterococci are natural hosts of the digestive tract of humans and animals. The two main species responsible for infections in humans are *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Enterococcus faecium*. Today three elements lead to a renewed interest in enterococci, namely the increase of their isolation from various infections, the importance of the place they occupy in nosocomial pathology and the emergence and the accumulation of antibiotic resistance mechanisms. The objective of our study was to evaluate the antibiotic resistance of isolated *Enterococcus* species in poultry, in

the wilaya of Tizi Ouzou. A total of 33 isolated strains were analyzed for susceptibility to antibiotics by the disc diffusion on Mueller-Hinton agar as recommended by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. Ten antibiotics belonging to different families were tested. High percentages of resistance to tetracycline and macrolide were observed (85% and 79%, respectively), with high levels of resistance recorded for aminoglycosides (7%). However, all strains were susceptible to vancomycin and ampicillin.

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