
Abstract

A Food Poisoning Outbreak Caused by *Shigella* in Al-Mafraq, Jordan, in 2019

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Abstract

Background: On October 6, 2019, 55 residents of Bala'ama town in Al-Mafraq, Jordan, were admitted to the local health care center with symptoms of food poisoning.

Objective: This study aimed to identify the cause of the food poisoning outbreak.

Methods: This descriptive study is a cross-sectional study. Data were obtained from the Directorate of Communicable Diseases in the Ministry of Health. A total of 25 stool samples from patients and an additional 2 samples from workers in the restaurant were collected and tested. An environmental survey of the food and water was also conducted.

Results: The period of the outbreak was from October 6 to 10, 2019. The highest proportion of patients were children under 5 years of age. More females than males were affected. Stool test results were positive for *Shigella sonnei* in 15 samples and rotavirus in 7 samples. Chloride concentration was 0 in the water samples.

Conclusions: The food poisoning outbreak was caused by consumption of hummus from a neighborhood restaurant, which was contaminated with *S. sonnei*.

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KEYWORDS

food poisoning; outbreak; *Shigella*

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