Frequency of infection with Campylobacter jejuni/coli and the occurrence of IgG, IgM and complement fixing antibodies against the agent in workers in poultry abattoirs in Santiago, Chile

Campylobacter jejuni/coli (Cj/c) was isolated from 13 (11.3%) of faeces samples from 115 workers in poultry abattoirs in the region of Santiago (Chile). Only 7 of the strains could be placed within the 6 known types. In relation to type of abattoir work, isolations were more frequent among workers concerned with evisceration (p < 0.05) than in employees doing other tasks (17.6% and 6.2%, respectively). Specific complement fixing antibodies (CF) against Cj/c were detected in 33% of the employees who had direct contact with birds or carcasses, whereas in the other employees only 10% had CF, which was significantly lower (p < 0.009). Low antibody concentrations of IgG were found in both groups (7.8% and 3%, respectively). The frequency of IgM antibodies was similar in the two groups (58.2% and 60.8%).