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## Quinolone-Resistant *E coli* in the Community

Gina Pugliese, RN, MS  
Martin S. Favero, PhD

Garau and colleagues observed from 1992 to 1997 in Barcelona, Spain, an increasing proportion of quinolone-resistant *Escherichia coli* (QREC) infections. QREC strains increased in patients with community-acquired infections, from 9% in 1992 to 17% in 1996. Seventy (12%) of 572 episodes of *E coli* bacteremia were due to QREC. In a multivariate analysis, only prior exposure to antimicrobial agents, specifically to quinolones,

and the presence of a urinary catheter were significantly associated with QREC bacteremia. Among 16 QREC isolates from cultures of blood of community origin selected at random, 13 different pulsed-field gel electrophoresis patterns were recognized, showing the genetic diversity of these isolates and in turn indicating the independent emergence of QREC in the community.

The prevalence of QREC in the feces of healthy people was unexpectedly high (24% in adults and 26% in children). A survey of the prevalence of

QREC of avian and porcine origin revealed a very high proportion of QREC in animal feces (up to 90% of chickens harbored QREC). The high prevalence of QREC in the stools of healthy humans in the study area could be linked to the high prevalence of resistant isolates in poultry and pork.

FROM: Garau J, Xercavins M, Rodriguez-Carballeira M, Gomez-Vera JR, Coll I, Vidal D, et al. Emergence and dissemination of quinolone-resistant *Escherichia coli* in the community. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1999;43:2736-2741.