

TRICHINELLOSIS IN POLAND; 1975-1984

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This information paper presents the epidemiological data on trichinellosis in humans during the full nine years 1975-1983 and partly for the 1984. In the first five year period 1975-1979 the median value was rather low amounting to 246 cases. However in 1980 already 199 cases were reported. Much higher incidence of trichinellosis among human population was observed in 1981, when 316 cases in 18 districts were registered. In 1982, 307 cases in 25 districts, while in 1983, 408 cases in 19 districts were reported. In 1984 (data for the first annual quarter) 173 cases were observed.

The country prevalence rate of trichinellosis in humans during 1975-1983 ranged from 0.6 to 1.1 per 100 000 of inhabitants. In the reported period of time the highest incidence was observed in the following districts: Gdańsk, Łomża, Warszawa, Białystok, Radom, Bydgoszcz, Poznań, Koszalin, Zielona Góra and Suwałki ranging from 12.5 to 2.5 cases per 100 000 of inhabitants respectively. However in general trichinellosis in humans has been not reported in 14 (from all 49) districts: Biała Podlaska, Chełm, Konin, Kraków — municipal region, Legnica, Leszno, Nowy Sącz, Rzeszów, Tarnobrzeg, Wałbrzych, Włocławek and Zamość.

The characteristic seasonal pattern of trichinellosis in Poland, with a highest frequency between December and April was observed, what was connected with higher consumption of unexamined pork or pork products during Christmas and Easter feasts at family festivities.

Annually 2-4 deaths and 66.1-80.1% of hospitalized sick persons were registered.

Characteristic of Trichinellosis foci

The observed epidemics most often occurred in families, they were usually limited to 20 morbidity cases. In 1980 from 6 endemic outbreaks, for three of them, meat and sausage from wild boar were responsible

(102 cases — 53.3%). For one another outbreak of trichinellosis coypu (*Myocaster coypus*) meat served as a source of infection for 20 persons (10%), and for the remaining two outbreaks of trichinellosis pork and pork products (77 cases — 38.7%) were responsible; two persons died.

In 1981 the source of trichinellosis in 176 cases (55.7%) was meat of wild boar, while in other 140 cases (44.3%) pork and pork products. Children below 14 years of age constituted 4% of all cases. A large outbreak of trichinellosis comprised 167 cases including 9 children below 14 years of age. As the source of these infections sausage from unexamined pork was found to be responsible, 61 persons (36%) were hospitalized with 4 deaths (rate of mortality 0.01 per 100 000 persons).

In 1982 no major outbreaks were reported. Among 21 family outbreaks of trichinellosis comprising 233 persons — 18 children below 14 years of age were included (7.7%). In other outbreaks of 193 persons (82.8%), unexamined pork products from farm slaughters, were responsible; for 4 remaining trichinellosis foci, with 40 cases (17.2%), as the source of infection served meat from a wild boar, 3 persons died.

In 1983 — 29 trichinellosis foci were registered, including two great outbreaks. One at the village Iłża (district Radom) was especially characteristic. The source of infection was pork meat originated from 7 pigs fed, at a collecting station with carcasses of foxes, coypuses and pigs. The pork was sold illegally and consumed by 158 persons; 38 persons (24%) were taken ill by trichinellosis, 30 persons were hospitalized, 8 received medical treatment as ambulatory patient (6 of them with medium infection, 2 with light). Nobody died. However from 165 examined for trichinellosis, positive titers (1 : 10 to 1 : 2560) were found only in 15 persons (24.8%).

Epizootiological situation

During the 1976-1982 *Trichinella spiralis* larvae were found in: 1976 — 317 pigs, 1977 — 461, 1978 — 1004, 1979 — 249, 1980 — 216, 1981 — 287 and in 1982 — 466 pigs.

In 1982 the highest numbers of pigs infected with *T. spiralis* were reported in the following districts: Gorzów — 48 pigs (10.3%), Gdańsk — 47 (10.2%), Suwałki — 47 (10.2%), Słupsk — 42 (9.0%), Lublin — 39 (8.4%), Białystok — 27 (5.8%) and in the town district Łódź — 28 (6.0%).

What concerns the *Trichinella spiralis* infection in humans; during the last reported years in Poland, it is worth to emphasize that however the incidence and prevalence of this infection is increasing, nevertheless the death rate remains low. It amounts annually to 2-4 mortalities.