Set-up of a human brucellosis network

Workpackage 2

Responsible Partner: INSA

Contributing partners: BFR, ANSES

GENERAL INFORMATION

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SET-UP OF A HUMAN BRUCELLOSIS NETWORK

Summary of the work carried out

1. Objective:

The objective of this deliverable was to animate targeted audience of human brucellosis diagnostics experts. This deliverable will allow the workpackage invaluable imput on how the clinicians and diagnostic laboratories raise the suspicion on atypical Brucellosis cases, when it's implacable to diagnose it and how.
The advantage of already well established networks of experts is the chance to distribute the questionnaires and obtain valuable information. The workpackage 2 covers investigations in human populations, potentially in contact with emerging *Brucella* and related reservoirs.
Workpackage will ensure implementation of the surveillance network for human brucellosis and harmonisation of protocols.

2. The deliverable

For now, two major networks have been identified and will be used to organize the questionnaires and collect the data on suspicions, diagnostics and identification of atypical *Brucella* species as well as new reservoirs.

National Institute of Health Dr Ricardo Jorge (INSA), namely the Emergency Response and Bioprepration Unit, developed a network that includes the laboratories that perform the research on *Brucella* spp in human samples. The main aim of the network is to proceed to the laboratory identification of *Brucella* species through the molecular typing of the strains sent by the collaborating laboratories, as well as obtaining epidemiological data. This network includes several laboratories of the National Health System as well as assorted Portuguese private laboratories.

Bruce-list is the electronic mailing list intended only for researchers and clinicians engaged in the fields or science and medicine relevant to brucellosis. Its purpose is to exchange scientific information, engage in scientific discussions, announce meetings and positions for employment, or news concerning brucellosis research workers. It is not intended for commercial advertisements not specifically relevant to brucellosis research.

3. Conclusions

Two *Brucella* experts networks will help us collect important information on the clinical diagnostics as well as current laboratory methods employed to identify the atypical *Brucella* species affecting human population. Furthermore, we will continue to pursue the collaboration with ECDC in order to be able to faster identify the possibility for spread of human cases of atypical Brucellosis and incormporate our toolkit in order to improve its diagnostics and control.