

MULTIDRUG RESISTANT *ESCHERICHIA COLI* ISOLATES OF POULTRY ORIGIN IN ABEOKUTA, SOUTH WESTERN NIGERIA

Akinlabi Oladele Ogunleye, Mufutau Aranda Oyekunle,
and Adekayode Olanrewaju Sonibare

Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State. Nigeria

Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology. College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Thirty nine *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) isolated from septicaemic clinical cases between October 2005 and March 2006 from eleven poultry farms in Abeokuta, South West Nigeria were tested for their *in vitro* antimicrobial drug sensitivity pattern. The *E. coli* were isolated from two hundred and fifty samples comprising of intestine, kidneys, lungs, hearts, ovary, spleen and colo-rectum from diseased chickens (mostly commercial layers) submitted for post-mortem examination. Eight of the poultry farms studied disclosed that they had used between 3 to 7 different antimicrobial agents either for treatment, prophylaxis or as growth promoters within the studied period. The result indicated that the 39 *E. coli* isolates showed nineteen different multidrug-resistant patterns to Nitrofurantoin (100 µg), Cefuroxime (20 µg), Norfloxacin (10 µg), Cotrimoxazole (50 µg), Ciprofloxacin (5 µg), Nalidixic acid (30 µg), Chloramphenicol (10 µg), Ampicillin (10 µg, 25 µg), Ofloxacin (5 µg), Penicillin G (5 i.u), Amoxylin (20 µg), and Cloxacilin (5 µg, 10 µg) discs that were tested.

Keywords: *Escherichia coli*, multidrug resistant, poultry