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Editorial

# Prevention of Camel Brucellosis Spreading to Humans: A Real Challenge

**Isam Mamoun***

*Department of Bacteriology, Fakieh Poultry Health Laboratories, Taif, Saudi Arabia*

***Corresponding Author:** Isam Mamoun, Department of Bacteriology, Fakieh Poultry Health Laboratories, Taif, Saudi Arabia.

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Brucellosis is a common zoonosis worldwide affecting humans and several domestic animals including sheep, goats, cows and camels. The main sources of infection are food-borne. Transmission of brucellosis to humans can occur through the consumption of contaminated unpasteurized camel milk.

Recent reports from different countries indicate that there is an epidemiological association between bovine, caprine, ovine and camel brucellosis. In sheep and goats herded with cattle and camels the prevalence rates of the disease were higher than those herded separately.

Detection of brucellosis infected camels that may cause the disease to spread to humans requires an effective control and eradication programs. Diagnosis of Brucella infection in camels is a problem because the infected camel does not show any symptoms and that abortion occurs during the first half of pregnancy. Even in cases of stormy abortions, serological tests do not prove that brucellosis is the cause.

A small number of false negative reactions in the serum from animals later found to be infected have been reported. In countries where the Rose Bengal Plate test (RBPT) is used as a screen test, false negative reactions could lead to infected animals being recorded as free of infection and these animals could become a source of outbreak of infection in supposedly Brucella- free herds.

Combination of epidemiologic and clinical findings should be used for brucellosis diagnosis, even in serological "unproven" cases.

To overcome the challenge emerging from failure to prevent and control camel brucellosis, my opinion is to encourage all bacteriologists to pursue research on the area of serological diagnosis.

Interestingly, EC Bacteriology and Virology Research (ECBVR) Journal provides opportunities to publish eminent research articleson all topics related to Bacteriology and Virology such as Bacterial Ecology, Pathogenic Bacteria, Bacterial Genomics, Bacterial Diseases etc.

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