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A One Health Perspective on a Histamine Fish Poisoning Outbreak in Fernando de Noronha, Brazil: Integrated Surveillance, Health Education and Lessons Learned

Inhalt

Introduction: Histamine fish poisoning is a foodborne disease associated with failures in fish preservation and cold-chain maintenance. Island communities are particularly vulnerable due to geographic isolation, dependence on fisheries, and intense tourism. Objective: To describe the 2016 outbreak in Fernando de Noronha, Brazil, from a One Health perspective. Methods: A descriptive study was conducted using epidemiological and sanitary investigation reports from December 2015 to May 2016. Results: Sixty-six suspected cases were identified; 37 were confirmed. Histamine concentrations ranged from 3,120 to 13,411.5 mg/kg, far above Brazilian regulatory limits. Inspections revealed inadequate refrigeration, insufficient ice use, transportation failures, improper storage, and poor food handling practices. Educational gaps among fishermen and food handlers were also observed. In response, health authorities strengthened inspections and implemented educational and regulatory measures, including technical guidance and promotion of good practices. No further cases were reported after implementation of these measures. Conclusion: This outbreak demonstrates the importance of integrating surveillance, health education, and food safety actions within a One Health framework to prevent foodborne diseases in island communities. The findings highlight the need for monitoring, risk assessment, and health education to sustain prevention in island communities dependent on fisheries and tourism.

Keywords

One Health; Histamine Fish Poisoning; Health Surveillance; Food Safety; Health Education; Island Communities

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No, I am not a Junior Scientist.

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