

**The first report of an *Enterococcus gallinarum* outbreak with high level of glycopeptide resistance (HGR) occurred in a general hospital of Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

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*E. gallinarum* (*Ega*) have been described as colonizing bacteria, but it have rarely been associated with some diseases like bacteremia and infection in immunosupressed patients. *Ega* is intrinsically resistant to low level of vancomycin (VAN) and susceptible to teicoplanin, its phenotype is conferred by *vanC1* gene. Between Aug. 2000 and Jan. 2001, 16 *Ega* (16 ICU patients) from rectal swabs with HGR were detected in a general hospital in Bs. As. Objectives: to characterize the mechanism involved in HGR by PCR; to investigate the genetic relationship by PFGE and to determine if the mechanism of HGR is transferable (from *Ega*HGR to *E. faecium* VAN susceptible (*EfmVS*)). Strains were identified by biochemical characterization using Facklam's recommendations and PCR for *vanC1* gene. PCR for *vanC1* and *vanA* genes were positive for all the strains. Three clonal types were discriminated by *Apal*-PFGE. Most of the strains belonged to clonal types A (n=8, 50%) and B (n=7, 43.8%). One *Ega*HGR representative of clone B, was mated with *EfmVS* in BHI agar with VAN plus ampicillin. The 15 transconjugants obtained were confirmed biochemically and by PCR. Nowadays, CDC does not recommend infection control initiatives for patients infected or colonized with "motile" enterococci. However, our findings suggest that *Ega* is capable to capture a genetic element responsible of HGR and to transfer it to other species. This is, in our knowledge, the first report of an *Ega*HGR outbreak, produced by 2 clones carrying a transferable *vanA* element. Strict control measures should be taken in countries with social, political and economic difficulties where the bacteria acts like a reservoir for unusual genotypes of resistance.