

Sero-Survey of Q Fever in the North-Western Part of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Volga Punda-Poliæ, Suzana Raduloviæ¹

Department of Microbiology, Split University Hospital and School of Medicine, Split, Croatia; and

¹Department of Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine, University of Maryland at Baltimore, Baltimore, MD, USA

Aim. To assess the prevalence of antibodies to *Coxiella burnetii* phase II antigen in sera of people living in the north-western part of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bihæ area).

Methods. One hundred eighty-three human sera were tested by complement fixation (CF), indirect immunofluorescence (IFA), and indirect enzyme immunoassay (EIA) for antibodies against *Coxiella burnetii* phase II antigen.

Results. Twenty-four percent of CF-tested sera reacted positively to phase II antigen of *Coxiella burnetii*. In the IFA and EIA tests, 22.4% of sera reacted with *C. burnetii*. IFA and EIA test results agreed in all cases.

Conclusion. The results of the serosurvey show that *Coxiella burnetii* is endemic in the north-western part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a seroepidemiological survey of Q fever, indirect enzyme immunoassay is equivalent to indirect immunofluorescence assay.

Key words: Bosnia and Herzegovina; complement fixation tests; *Coxiella*; enzyme immunoassay; immunofluorescence technic

Received: February 14, 1997

Accepted: May 22, 1997

Correspondence to:

Dr Volga Punda-Poliæ
Department of Microbiology
Split University Hospital
Spinèiæeva 1
21000 Split, Croatia