

**TENIASIS-CYSTICERCOSIS COMPLEX: EVALUATION OF BUTCHERS KNOWLEDGE
IN JABOTICABAL, SÃO PAULO STATE, BRAZIL**

*(COMPLEXO TENIOSE-CISTICERCOSE: AVALIAÇÃO DO CONHECIMENTO DE
MANIPULADORES DE CARNES NO MUNICÍPIO DE JABOTICABAL, SÃO PAULO, BRASIL)*

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Taenia saginata and *Taenia solium* are the etiological agents of the bovine and swine teniose-cysticercosis complex, respectively. The knowledge about the primary means of infection is an important prophylactic measure while education is the way to promote awareness. This study aimed to evaluate the knowledge of butchers about this complex in Jaboticabal, São Paulo, Brazil. Participants were meat handlers of 25 shops in the city, 9 small, 10 medium and 6 large. Data was collected by applying a structured questionnaire with 12 multiple choice questions and alternatives "yes/no", referring to knowledge about the epidemiology, transmission and infection and prevention of this zoonosis. It was also evaluated whether the shops differ regarding their employees' knowledge about the teniose-cysticercosis complex, regarding shop size. The analysis was performed using descriptive statistics and multivariate analysis, adopting the method of correspondence analysis, using the program Statistica, version 7.0. We applied 55 questionnaires, of which 13, 22 and 20 were answered by meat handlers who worked in small, medium and large shops, respectively. Although 56% (31/55) of the handlers knew about the problem, knowledge about the epidemiological chain is superficial, since only 26% (14/55) answered that only humans can eliminate the eggs. In addition, 54% (29/55) responded that by eating meat containing viable cysticerci, human can develop only cysticercosis, and not teniose. Statistically, the level of knowledge about the disease did not differ significantly in relation to company size. In view of the observed results, there is a great ignorance of the subject on the part of the professionals interviewed. The insufficient knowledge about the epidemiology of this disease by the handlers of butcher shops in Jaboticabal, highlights the need for health education targeted to those professionals, so they can be more educated and thus promote more efficient preventive measures during handling.

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