RECENT SITUATION ON THE OCCURRENCE OF CYSTIC ECHINOCOCCOSIS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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**Introduction**

The Czech Republic is known to be a nonendemic country for diseases caused by the larval stages (metacestodes) of *Echinococcus granulosus* sensu lato – cystic echinococcosis (CE). It develops after ingestion of the parasite eggs which are produced by adult tapeworms living in the intestine of carnivores (mainly dogs), and further released by the host faeces. In the country, adult worms were not reported yet, however, metacestodes were detected occasionally in wild and slaughtered animals. Laboratory diagnosis of CE includes imaging techniques, serological and histopathological examination, and species–specific molecular analysis.

**Materials and methods**

Our laboratory, which deals with serological diagnosis of tissue helminthoses, performed a retrospective study on findings of CE in humans in the CR during a period of 1987–2014. A total of 23,078 persons were serologically examined for the presence of anti–*E. granulosus* antibodies. The results were analysed together with available imaging and/or histopathologic findings and species–specific molecular analysis.

**Results and conclusion**

Altogether, CE was detected in 81 humans of which 31 were Czech citizens; in most patients, the liver were affected. Although CE is considered to be mostly imported to the CR, some our data suggest that the disease might have also a character of autochtonous infection.

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