

P2-15

**Epidemiologic situation in the occurrence of tularemia in Slovakia, 1997–2008**D. Guryčová<sup>1</sup>, V. Výrosteková<sup>1</sup>, K. Tináková<sup>2</sup>, E. Gacíková<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>Comenius University, Medical Faculty, Institute of Epidemiology, Bratislava, Slovakia, <sup>2</sup>Regional Authority of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology, Nitra, Slovakia, <sup>3</sup>State Veterinary and Food Institute, Department of Serology and Immunology, Bratislava, Slovakia

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**Aims:** To analyse the development of epidemiologic situation in the occurrence of tularemia in Slovakia during a time period of the last twelve years and changes of some epidemiologic characteristics in relation to sources of infection and routes of transmission.**Methods:** Basis for the epidemiologic analysis being data from published results of surveillance of tularemia in Slovakia and records of epidemiologic examination of reported cases as well as information from longterm surveillance of natural foci.**Results:** In the years 1997 – 2008 tularemia was reported from all counties of Slovakia, in total 453 cases – mean incidence rate 0.71 per 100 000 population, out of it 95.4% in the west of the country, predominantly in County Nitra – mean incidence rate 4/100 000. During an epidemic in 2002 the incidence rate reached 18/100 000 in this region. Cases occurred in all age groups 1.9 x more frequently in men compared with women. Seasonal occurrence peaked in summer, month of July. More prevalent were cases transmitted from other sources – 58.5% as from hares – 16.3%, which was in correlation with marked decrease of hare tularemia foci in this time period. Transmission of the disease resulted most frequently from manipulation with contaminated feed, litter and working in dusty environment with increased occurrence of rodents. Proportion of cases transmitted by ticks and biting insect comprised 12.8% and 12.4% were epidemiologically unclarified cases. Most frequent clinical manifestations were ulceroglandular and glandular forms – 55.6%, pulmonary, oroglandular and others represented 21.2%, 18.8% and 4.4%, respectively.**Conclusions:** Changed dominance of sources of infection and routes of transmission conditioned changes in epidemiology of tularemia in Slovakia, proven mainly by decreased number of professional infections, rise of cases acquired during leisure activities in summer, infections in lower age groups, as well as rise of pulmonary and oroglandular clinical forms. Importance of surveillance of tularemia being pointed out.