

Technical Editing

Assignment 13.1: Proofreading Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

The context

This document is now set in type as it will appear in print unless corrected. Proofreading is the last chance to The text is prepared as a traveler's advisory.

Instructions

Mark the text to make it free from typos and to ensure that it is complete and accurate, according to the typescript copy that was sent to the printer ("dead copy"). **Consult the dead copy** to determine the editor's choices about style, correct spelling, and completeness of information (make sure no words have been omitted from the proof copy).

Also make sure that the **typeface, type size, and spacing** are correct.

Do not *edit*—just proofread (but if you find a mistake on the dead copy, do not replicate it in proof copy). Mark on these pages.

Type specs

These specifications enable descriptive rather than procedural marking. The codes for the different types of text call for all the details listed in these specifications.

code procedures

- T Title: 12-point Verdana bold, centered; caps and lowercase; 12 points after; mark the line to break before "and"
- H1 Heading Level 1: 11-point Verdana bold, left justified, caps and lower case, 12 points before, 4 points after
Body text: 11-point Times; 5-inch (30-pica) column; set ragged right; no hyphenatio ends of lines
- BT-0 Paragraphs after headings: no indention
- BT-1 Paragraphs: one-em indention; no extra space between
- NL Numbered list: indent number 2 ems; hanging indent 2 ems, 6 pts after each item, 6 before first item
- URL 9-pt Verdana, no underscore, break only after slash mark, no "http://" in URL

Bovine Spongiform encephopathy and New Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

Description

Since 1996, evidence has been increasing, for a casual relationship between on-going outbreaks in Europe of a disease in cattle, called bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or “mad cow disease”), and a disease in humans, called new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nvCJD). Both disorders are invariably fatal brain diseases with unusually long incubation periods measured in years, and are caused by an unconventional transmissible agent.

Although there is strong evidence that the agent responsible for these human cases is the same agent responsible for the BSE outbreaks in cattle; the specific foods that may be associated with the transmission of this agent from cattle to humans are unknown. However, bioassays have identified the presence of the BSE agent in the brain, spinal cord, retina, dorsal root ganglia (nervous tissue located near the backbone), and the bone marrow of cattle experimentally infected with this agent by the oral route.

In addition to cattle, sheep are susceptible to experimental infection with the BSE agent by the oral route. Thus, in countries where flocks of sheep and goats may have been exposed to the BSE agent through contaminated feed, there exist a theoretical risk that these animals may have developed infections caused by the BSE agent and that these infections have been maintained in the flocks, even in the absence of continued exposure to contaminated feed (for example, through maternal transmission).

In December 1998, the World Health Organization published a report encouraging countries to conduct risk assessments related to BSE in populations of sheep and goats. In August 2000, survey data of sheep farms in the United Kingdom were reported to have shown no rise in BSE-like illnesses in sheep that could be related to the BSE outbreak in cattle. Currently, cattle remain the only known food animal species with disease caused by the BSE agent.

Occurrence

From 1986 through August 2000, >99% of the cases of BSE reported were from the United Kingdom, but epidemic cases of BSE were also reported in other European countries, including Belgium, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Ireland, and Switzerland.

From 1995 through early August 2000, 79 human cases of nvCJD were reported in the United Kingdom, 3 in France, and 1 in Ireland. During that period, the reported rate of occurrence of these new cases increased.

Based on data available in mid-2000, the proportion of the total number of BSE cases in Europe reported outside the United Kingdom rose to 6.7 % in 1998 and to >10% in 1999, primarily reflecting the

declining large outbreak of BSE in the United Kingdom and the sharp rise in the number of reported cases in Portugal.

In July 2000, the European Union Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) on the geographic risk of BSE adopted a final opinion on the risks of BSE in the cattle populations of 23 different countries. The United Kingdom and Portugal were the only ones classified as countries where BSE was confirmed in domestic cattle at a higher level (over 100 cases per 1 million adult cattle in the 12 month period ending June 15, 2000).

Despite the absence of reported endemic cases of BSE in Germany, Italy, and Spain; the SSC concluded that it was likely that cattle in those three countries were infected and classified their geographic risk of BSE as similar to that of the countries where BSE had been confirmed (but at a level below 100 cases per 1 million adult cattle).

Because no data was available from Greece, the SSC reported that it was prudent to assume that the geographic BSE risk there was at a "high level".

The reports of the final opinion of the SSC and its BSE risk assessments of individual countries are available on the European Union Commission on Food Safety and Animal Welfare internet website, europa.eu.int/comm/food/index_en.html (search for "BSE-risk assessment").

In addition, the numbers of reported cases, by country are available on the Internet website of the Office International Des Epizooties, at www.oie.int/eng/info/en_esb.htm. These numbers should be interpreted with caution because of differences in the intensity of surveillance over time and by country.

Risks to Travelers

The current risk of acquiring nvCJD from eating beef (muscle meat) and beef products produced from cattle in Europe cannot be precisely determined, and this risk in specific countries might not reflect the fact that cattle products from one country might be distributed and consumed in others.

Nevertheless, in the United Kingdom, this current risk appears to be extremely small, perhaps about 1 case per 10 billion servings.

In the other countries of Europe, this current risk, if it exists at all, would not likely be any higher than that in the United Kingdom, except possibly in Portugal. In the 12-month period ending June 15, 2000, Portugal had about half the reported incidence of BSE cases per 1 million adult cattle as that reported in the United Kingdom, however, Portugal has less experience with implementing BSE-related public health control measures.

Preventative Measures

Public health control measures, such as BSE surveillance, the culling of sick animals, or banning specified risk materials (SRMs), or a combination of these, have been instituted in Europe to prevent potentially BSE-infected tissues from entering the human food chain.

The most stringent of these control measures have been applied in the United Kingdom and appear to have been highly effective.

In June 2000, the European Union Commission on Food Safety and Animal Welfare adopted a decision requiring all member states to remove SRM's from the animal feed and human food chains as of October 1, 2000; such bans have already been instituted in most member states.

To reduce the possible current risk of acquiring nvCJD from food, travelers to Europe may wish to consider either

- (1) avoiding beef and beef products altogether or
- (2) selecting beef or beef products, such as solid pieces of muscle meat (versus beef products such as burgers and sausages), that might have a reduced opportunity for contamination with tissues that might harbor the BSE agent.

Milk and milk products from cows are not believed to pose any risk for transmitting the BSE agent.

Assignment 13.1, Proofreading: Dead Copy

This marked copy was sent to the printer for typesetting. You can generally assume it is accurate and should proofread to make the typeset copy conform to this copy. However, copyeditors overlook errors, and if you see something in this copy that is incorrect, you should not mark the proof copy to incorporate unnecessary errors.

This copy is marked with structural rather than procedural markup. Level-one headings, for example, are marked simply with the circled "H1" rather than with all the details of type and spacing.

T Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and New Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

H1 Description

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