

**PRESENCE OF *LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES* IN PRODUCTION
LINE OF PICKLED WHITE CHEESE, THEIR SEROTYPING AND
DETERMINING THE ANTIBIOTIC SUSCEPTIBILITY**

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In the study, it was aimed to determine the presence, serotyping and antibiotic susceptibility of *Listeria monocytogenes* from 16 different points of production line of four enterprises where pickled white cheese produced. The presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in the samples is examined through the method suggested by Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Molecular identification of *L. monocytogenes* isolates that were isolated and identified by cultivation and their serotyping with Denka Seiken serums were carried out. The susceptibility profiles of isolates to ten antibiotics were determined through disc diffusion method. Three of 192 samples (1,56%) were identified as *Listeria monocytogenes*. Isolates were from pressing cases, wall-ground and raw milk. The isolates were determined as serovar 4b with commercially available antisera. The isolate from the wall-ground sample was found to have susceptibility to all ten antibiotics and the isolates from press cases and raw milk samples were found resistant to erythromycin. The isolates obtained from the press cases are determined to have susceptibility to chloramphenicol and streptomycin and the isolates from raw milk are determined to be susceptible to streptomycin at a moderate level. As well as raw material, isolating of *L. monocytogenes* 4b from different points of production process indicates that contamination risk is high during the production of white-brined cheese. Consequently, it is essential that all the phases including from primary production to consumption should be taken under control for reducing the risk of listeriosis.

Keywords: Antibiotic susceptibility, *Listeria monocytogenes*, PCR, Pickled white cheese, Serotyping

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