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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A T O A	
ALOA	Ottaviani and Agosti agar
CAMP test	Christie Atkins Munch Peterson test
CIP	Caseinolytic proteins
hlyA	haemolysin gene
Iap	Invasion associated protein, gene coding for Protein P60
ICMSF	International commission of Microbiological Specification for Foods
IDF	International Dairy Federation
InlA	internalin A gene
InlB	internalin B gene
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
L. grayi	Listeria grayi
L. innocua	Listeria innocua
L. ivanovii	Listeria ivanovii
L. monocytogenes	Listeria monocytogenes
L. murrayi	Listeria murrayi
L. seeligeri	Listeria seeligeri
L. welshimeri	Listeria welshimeri
LLO	Listeriolysin O
Mpl	Gene coding for Metalloprotease
NCCLS	
	National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standarts
PALCAM	National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standarts Polymyxin B-acriflavine-Lithium chloride
	· ·
	Polymyxin B-acriflavine-Lithium chloride
PALCAM	Polymyxin B-acriflavine-Lithium chloride Ceftazidime-Aesculin-Mannitol agar base phosphatidycholine-specific phospholipase C gene encodes a secreted phosphatidylinositol-specific
PALCAM PC-PLC	Polymyxin B-acriflavine-Lithium chloride Ceftazidime-Aesculin-Mannitol agar base phosphatidycholine-specific phospholipase C

PrfA	Positive regulatory factor gene
R. equi	Rhodococcus equi
S. aureus	Staphylococcus aureus
USDA	United State Department of Agriculture
USFDA	United State Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
WHO	World Health Organization

7. SUMMARY

Milk and dairy products have high nutritional value and they are very suitable for development of microorganisms, including pathogenic bacteria as **Listeria** species resulting in Listeriosis. Therefore, this study was conducted to estimate the prevalence of Listeria species in milk, soft cheese, Kariesh cheese and ice cream at Kaliobia Governorate with special interest to *L. monocytogenes* and studying their cultural, biochemical and In-vitro antimicrobial Sensitivity for them with special reference to some virulence genes. So, the present study was performed on a total of 200 random samples of raw milk, soft cheese, Kariesh cheese and ice cream (50 samples each) were collected from small retails and different supermarkets at Kaliobia Governorate.

The results of **Listeria spp**. isolation revealed that, 11 out of 200 samples were positive for isolation (5.5%); represented as 3 positive samples (1.5%) from each type of samples of raw milk; Kariesh cheese and ice cream samples followed by 2 (1.0%) from soft cheese samples. Mixed isolates were present in raw milk samples only.

The results of bacteriological examination of examined samples revealed that, a total of 13(6.5%) isolates of Listeria species were recovered from 200 samples, includes 10 *L. monocytogenes* (5.0%) and 3 *L. grayi* (1.5%). *L. monocytogenes* was isolated with an incidence of 76.9% (3 from each samples of raw milk; Kariesh cheese and ice cream (23.1%) and 1(7.7%) from soft cheese). Meanwhile, *L. grayi* was isolated with an incidence of 23.1% (2 from raw milk samples (15.4%) and 1(7.7%) from soft cheese only). Moreover, the other 4 species (*L. ivanovii*; *L. innocua*; *L. seeligeri and L. welshimeri*) could not isolated from all samples.

The results of antibiotic sensitivity tests for the isolated *L. monocytogenes* cleared that, the isolated *L. monocytogenes* were sensitive to amoxicillin and gentamycin (80.0%) followed by enrofloxacin; kanamycin and ampicillin (70.0%; 70.0% and 60.0% respectively). While the isolated strains were resistant to Nalidixic acid, streptomycin and tetracycline.

The results of virulence tests for isolated Listeria strains appeared that, all of L. monocytogenes strains were virulent strains, as all of them were positive to CAMP test; showed narrow zone of β -haemolysis on sheep blood agar and were positive for Anton's test. Meanwhile, L. grayi strains were non-virulent, as none of them could produce haemolysin (CAMP test negative) and negative for Anton's test.

The PCR results for *L. monocytogenes* showed that, all genes (16S rRNA; inlA; inlB; hlyA and prfA) were detected in five studied strains (100.0%) i.e., all studied strains were *L. monocytogenes* and all of them were virulent strains.