

Summary

Human listeriosis although relatively a rare disease, could cause serious illness and high mortality. Listeria monocytogenes is a food born pathogen. The type of foods which harbour the organism in Sri Lanka have not been adequately determined.

A total number of 202 samples of various food items were obtained from the retail outlets in Colombo. They were subjected to conventional culture for Listeria monocytogenes.

13 out of 60 (22%) frozen raw chicken samples were positive for L.monocytogenes. Raw milk, pasteurized milk, ice cream, curd, yoghurt and green leafy vegetables, Mukunuwanna (Alternanthera sessilis) and Gotukola (Centella asiatica) did not contain L.monocytogenes.