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Detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* in poultry carcasses slaughtered in Mashad using conventional and Multiplex-PCR methods

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Objective:

Listeria monocytogenes has been described as one of the major human food-borne pathogens. This study aimed to establish the prevalence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in the poultry carcasses slaughtered and distributed in Mashad.

Method & Materials:

In this study a total of 100 poultry carcasses were investigated for the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes*. *Listeria* spp. were identified by morphological, cultural and biochemical tests. Then *Listeria monocytogenes* was confirmed using Multiplex-PCR.

Results & Conclusion:

Prevalence of *Listeria* spp. was 14% in this study and the incidence rate of *L.monocytogenes* was 3%. The results indicate the significance of equipment and installations as sources of contamination by *Listeria* spp. and *L.monocytogenes* during the study also indicated that Multiplex-PCR method is a convenient and time-saving technique for rapid confirmation of *Listeria* spp. main serotype i.e. *L.monocytogenes* in a single reaction.

Keywords: Poultry carcass, *Listeria monocytogenes*, Multiplex-PCR