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A Fatal Food Intoxication Case due to *Salmonella* Haifa

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We report the case of a 78-year-old male who died of food intoxication in Nagasaki in October of 2004. He had diarrhea around 7 p.m. on September 29. On the next morning he developed fever of 38.7°C with a chill, and his family called a doctor. At midnight on October 1 his condition suddenly deteriorated and he was sent to a hospital in Nagasaki. His condition further deteriorated to a critical level with symptoms of septic shock. He died of renal failure on October 2. At 9 p.m. on September 30, his 1-year-old grandchild, who had been living in the same house, developed a fever of 38.8°C, and around 6 p.m. the following evening the child had watery diarrhea. He was treated in a clinic and recovered after treatment.

A commercial laboratory isolated bacteria belonging to genus *Salmonella* from the fecal specimens of the patient and his grandchild, and sent them to our laboratory. It was confirmed that the isolates belonged to *Salmonella enterica* subsp. *enterica* by biochemical tests, including an assay of

![Fig. 1. PFGE pattern of *Salmonella* Haifa isolates. Chromosomal DNA of the isolates was digested with XbaI (Lanes 1-2) or with BlnI (Lanes 4-5) restriction enzymes, and electrophoresed for 19 h under 200 V at an electrophoretic speed with an initial switch time of 2.2 sec and final switch time of 63.8 sec. Lanes 1 and 4: isolate from the grandchild. Lanes 2 and 5: isolate from the fatal case (grandfather). Lane 3: DNA size marker (λ DNA ladder).](image)
H2S production. The isolates were further serotyped as *Salmonella* Haifa. Both isolates showed identical antibiotic sensitivities, i.e., they were both sensitive to ampicillin, piperacillin, cefazolin, cefotaxime, cefoperazone, aztreonam, imipenem, gentamicin, minocycline, sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim, ofloxacin, chloramphenicol, and fosfomycin, and both showed identical PFGE patterns of *XbaI*- or *BlnI*-digested chromosomal DNAs (Fig. 1). The results suggested that these two family members had developed food intoxication by ingestion of the same food(s). However, we were unable to identify the responsible food(s). There have been few reported cases of ingestion of *S*. Haifa-contaminated food, and fewer still in which such ingestion was fatal.

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