Brucellosis in Saudi Arabia

Sir,

I read with interest the recent article on brucellosis in pregnancy in Bisha, Saudi Arabia, by Dr. Al Amoudi in the July 1995 issue.\textsuperscript{1}

Brucellosis seems to be one of the most important health problems in the Asir region with a high prevalence rate.\textsuperscript{2,3} However, the author could have quoted a few additional reports\textsuperscript{4,5,6} published in Saudi Arabia to get a better idea of their prevalence. During a one year period from March 1988 to February 1989, a total of 51 cases were reported among children in the Northwestern region of Saudi Arabia.\textsuperscript{4} The estimated annual incidence of 2.75/1000 children were reported from that region. Up to 20 or more cases may occur for each reported case\textsuperscript{7} making the actual prevalence rate higher. I would like to thank Dr. Al Amoudi for the helpful contribution regarding brucellosis in pregnancy. We did not come across any cases of neonatal brucellosis in the Northwestern region during the study period, although vertical transmission has been suggested and reported previously.\textsuperscript{8,9} It is apparent, however, that brucellosis is endemic in different regions of Saudi Arabia. Brucellosis is a preventable disease, therefore an effective program can contain the problem and decrease the morbidity in the population.

References


AKM Harunur Rashid
MD, DCH, MRCP (UK), FRCP (Edin.)
Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital
855 B Putnam Blvd
Wallingford, PA 19086, USA