

# Ciprofloxacin-resistant *Salmonella enterica* Typhimurium and Choleraesuis from Pigs to Humans, Taiwan

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We evaluated the disk susceptibility data of 671 nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates collected from different parts of Taiwan from March 2001 to August 2001 and 1,261 nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates from the National Taiwan University Hospital from 1996 to 2001. Overall, ciprofloxacin resistance was found in 2.7% (18/671) of all nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates, in 1.4% (5/347) of *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhimurium and in 7.5% (8/107) in *S. enterica* serotype Choleraesuis nationwide. MICs of six newer fluoroquinolones were determined for the following isolates: 37 isolates of ciprofloxacin-resistant (human) *S. Typhimurium* (N = 26) and *Choleraesuis* (N = 11), 10 isolates of ciprofloxacin-susceptible (MIC <1 mg/mL) (human) isolates of these two serotypes, and 15 swine isolates from *S. Choleraesuis* (N = 13) and *Typhimurium* (N = 2) with reduced susceptibility to ciprofloxacin (MIC >0.12 µg/mL). Sequence analysis of the *gyrA*, *gyrB*, *parC*, *parE*, and *acrR* genes, ciprofloxacin accumulation, and genotypes generated by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis with three restriction enzymes (*SpeI*, *XbaI*, and *BlnI*) were performed. All 26 *S. Typhimurium* isolates from humans and pigs belonged to genotype I. For *S. Choleraesuis* isolates, 91% (10/11) of human isolates and 54% (7/13) of swine isolates belonged to genotype B. These two genotypes isolates from humans all exhibited a high-level of resistance to ciprofloxacin (MIC 16–64 mg/mL). They had two-base substitutions in the *gyrA* gene at codons 83 (Ser83Phe) and 87 (Asp87Gly or Asp87Asn) and in the *parC* gene at codon 80 (Ser80Arg, Ser80Ile, or Ser84Lys). Our investigation documented that not only did these two *S. enterica* isolates have a high prevalence of ciprofloxacin resistance nationwide but also that some closely related ciprofloxacin-resistant strains are disseminated from pigs to humans.

Infections caused by nontyphoid *Salmonella* in humans are increasingly frequent in developed and developing countries (1,2). The increasing rates of resistance to traditional anti-*Salmonella* agents (i.e., ampicillin, chloramphenicol, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole) and extended-spectrum cephalosporins among these isolates have made treatment of invasive salmonellosis a clinical dilemma (3–6). Of particular concern is the emergence of fluoroquinolone resistance among nontyphoid *Salmonella* and the occurrence of outbreaks caused by some resistant clones, since this class of antimicrobial agents constitutes the drug of choice for treating potentially life-threatening *Salmonella* infections caused by the multidrug-resistant strains in adult persons (7–16). Moreover, cases of treatment failure due to fluoroquinolone resistance in *Salmonella* strains have been reported (17–19).

Researchers have increasingly reported that widespread use of fluoroquinolones in food animals leads to the rapid emergence and dissemination of resistant *Salmonella* infections to humans, particularly in developing countries (4,8,20–23). In Taiwan, Chiu et al. reported that resistance to ciprofloxacin among *S. enterica* *Choleraesuis* isolates first appeared in 2000 and ≤60% of the isolates recovered from two hospitals in northern Taiwan in the third quarter of 2001 were resistant to ciprofloxacin (14). Molecular investigation clearly demonstrated that the primary sources of these resistant strains were herds of pigs.

To better understand the prevalence of nationwide resistance and the probable dissemination of ciprofloxacin-resistant nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates, particularly *S. Typhimurium* and *Choleraesuis*, we determined the mechanisms of quinolone resistance and the genotypes of ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates from humans and pigs, collected in different parts of Taiwan. This study is part of the Surveillance from Multicenter Antimicrobial

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Resistance in Taiwan (SMART) programs conducted in 2001.

## Materials and Methods

### Bacterial Isolates

A total of 671 nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates were collected for the study. These isolates were recovered from various clinical specimens of patients treated at 11 major hospitals (bed capacities from 800 to 2,000) in different regions of Taiwan. These hospitals included the National Taiwan University Hospital (NTU; hospital A), Taipei; Taipei Veterans General Hospital (hospital B), Taipei; Mackay Memorial Hospital (hospital C), Taipei; Tri-service General Hospital (hospital D), Taipei; Taichung Veterans General Hospital (hospital E), Taichung; China Medical College Hospital (hospital F), Taichung; National Cheng-Kung University Hospital (hospital G), Tainan; Chi-Mei Medical Center (hospital H), Tainan; Kaohsiung Veterans General Hospital (hospital I), Kaohsiung; and Tzu-Chi General Hospital, Hualien (hospital J). Of the 671 isolates tested, 429 (64%) were recovered from stool samples, 141 (21%) from blood, and the rest from various body fluids.

Disk diffusion susceptibility results on these isolates were also provided by the hospitals and evaluated. Organisms were categorized as susceptible or resistant (including intermediate isolates) to the antimicrobial agents tested on the basis of the guidelines provided by the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS) (24). Isolates of *Salmonella* serogroups B and C were further identified to the serotype level, according to the Kauffman and White scheme, by using somatic and flagellar antigens (Denka Seiken Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) and also by conventional methods and the Phoenix System (panel type, NMIC/ID4) (Becton Dickson, Sparks, MD) at

hospital A (25). Table 1 shows the number of isolates of nontyphoid *Salmonella*, *S. Typhimurium*, and *S. Choleraesuis*, and the ciprofloxacin resistance for the two serotypes of *S. enterica* isolates recovered from the 11 hospitals.

A total of 13 isolates of *S. Choleraesuis* and two isolates of *S. Typhimurium* recovered from pigs raised in southern (N = 11) and central (N = 4) Taiwan from 1997 to 2002 were also collected for study. Of the 15 isolates, 2 each were collected in 1997, 1999, and 2001 and 3 each in 1998, 2000, and 2002. These isolates were collected from various visceral organs (lungs, liver, or spleen) or from stool specimens of pigs that died of septicemia. All the isolates were stored at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  in trypticase soy broth (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, MI) supplemented with 15% glycerol before being further tested. *S. Choleraesuis* ATCC 13312 and *S. Typhimurium* ATCC 14028 were used as control strains.

### Prevalence of Resistance at Hospital A

To determine the prevalence of antimicrobial resistance among nontyphoid *Salmonella*, we analyzed the disk diffusion susceptibility results of these organisms to ampicillin, cefotaxime/ceftriaxone, chloramphenicol, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, and ciprofloxacin recovered from 1996 to 2001 at hospital A. Isolates of *Salmonella* serogroups B and C resistant to ciprofloxacin (by the disk diffusion method) were further identified to the serotype level by the methods mentioned above.

### Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

Of the 671 isolates collected from 11 medical centers in 2001, 37 ciprofloxacin-resistant (by the disk diffusion method) *S. Typhimurium* (N = 26) and *S. Choleraesuis* (N = 11) isolates and 10 randomly selected ciprofloxacin-sus-

Table 1. Number of ciprofloxacin-resistant nontyphoid *Salmonella*, *S. enterica* Typhimurium, and *S. enterica* Choleraesuis isolates from patients treated at 11 major teaching hospitals in different regions of Taiwan, March 2001–August 2001

Hospital	% (no. ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates/no. total isolates) of ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates of total nontyphoid <i>Salmonella</i>	% (no. ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates/no. total isolates) of ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates, by serotype		
		Typhimurium	Choleraesuis	Others
Northern region	4.3 (7/231)	3.5 (3/85)	7.7 (2/26)	1.7 (2/120)
A	0.0 (0/100)	0.0 (0/40)	0.0 (0/13)	0.0 (0/47)
B	8.2 (4/49)	0.0 (0/19)	28.5 (2/7)	8.7 (2/23)
C	1.7 (1/60)	5.6 (1/18)	0.0 (0/3)	0.0 (0/39)
D	9.1 (2/22)	25.0 (2/8)	0.0 (0/3)	0.0 (0/11)
Central region	3.9 (6/154)	2.4 (2/85)	6.1 (2/33)	5.6 (2/36)
E	5.3 (3/57)	2.8 (1/36)	7.1 (1/7)	7.1 (1/14)
F	7.7 (3/97)	2.0 (1/49)	3.8 (1/26)	4.5 (1/22)
Southern region	2.0 (5/255)	0.0 (0/155)	9.5 (4/42)	1.7 (1/58)
G	0.0 (0/99)	0.0 (0/67)	0.0 (0/11)	0.0 (0/21)
H	2.3 (2/86)	0.0 (0/55)	11.8 (2/17)	0.0 (0/14)
I	4.3 (3/70)	0.0 (0/33)	14.3 (2/14)	4.3 (1/23)
Eastern region				
J	0.0 (0/31)	0.0 (0/22)	0.0 (0/6)	0.0 (0/3)
Total	2.7 (18/671)	1.4 (5/347)	7.5 (8/107)	2.3 (5/217)

ceptible (by the disk diffusion method) isolates of these two serotypes were tested for susceptibility to six fluoroquinolones (ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, trovafloxacin, gatifloxacin, and garenoxacin) to determine their MICs by using the agar dilution method according to the guidelines established by NCCLS (26). The 37 ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates included 13 isolates from the 2001 SMART program (5 *S. Typhimurium* isolates and 8 *S. Choleraesuis* isolates) and 24 recovered from 1996 to 2000 at hospital A (21 *S. Typhimurium* isolates and 3 *S. Choleraesuis* isolates). These ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates were recovered from 29 patients. Six patients (patients 9, 10, 11, 15, 29, and 32) had isolates that were recovered after >7 days from various clinical specimens. The patients' ages ranged from <1 year to 84 years (mean 31 years); those <2 years of age were predominant (47%) among patients with *S. Typhimurium* isolations. None of the patients with *S. Choleraesuis* bacteremia were ≤16 years. Among the 37 human isolates of ciprofloxacin-resistant nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates, 13 (3 of *S. Typhimurium* and 10 of *S. Choleraesuis*) were recovered from blood specimens of 12 patients with bloodstream infections. The rest of the isolates were recovered from stool or urine specimens.

Dilution susceptibilities to the aforementioned fluoroquinolones were also performed for the 15 isolates from pig herds, according to the NCCLS guidelines (26).

#### PCR Amplification and DNA Sequencing of *gyrA*, *gyrB*, *parC*, *parE*, and *acrR*

The sequences of the primers for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of *gyrA*, *gyrB*, *parC*, *parE*, and *acrR* have been previously described (27–30). The preparation of the template DNA and the determination of sequences of each gene followed the procedures described previously (27–29). The sequences of the quinolone resistance-determining regions (QRDRs) were determined to be between amino acids 54 and 171 of *gyrA*, 397 and 520 of *gyrB*, 12 and 130 of *parC*, and 421 and 524 of *parE*.

#### Ciprofloxacin Accumulation

The accumulation of ciprofloxacin, with or without 100 mM carbonyl cyanide *m*-chlorophenylhydrazone, was determined for two ciprofloxacin-resistant strains and one ciprofloxacin-susceptible *S. Typhimurium* (ciprofloxacin MIC = 0.06 µg/mL) as described previously (28,29). These experiments were performed twice to ensure reproducibility.

#### Molecular Typing

Genotyping of the human ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Typhimurium* (N = 26) and *S. Choleraesuis* (N = 11) isolates, the 10 human ciprofloxacin-susceptible isolates of the two

serotypes, and the 15 isolates from pigs was determined by the pulsotypes generated by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). The DNA extraction and purification were also carried out as described previously (31,32). The DNA was digested by the restriction enzymes *SpeI*, *XbaI*, and *BlnI* (9,16,23,32), and the restriction fragments were separated in a CHEF-DRIII unit (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). Interpretation of the PFGE profiles followed the description by Tenover et al. (33). Isolates belonging to the similar pulsotypes (within six band differences) by each of the three restriction enzymes were defined as the same genotypes (closely related clusters). Isolates with identical pulsotypes (no band differences) by the three restriction enzymes were defined as the same genosubtypes (clones).

## Results

### Nationwide Resistance in 2001

The rates of ciprofloxacin resistance among isolates of nontyphoid *Salmonella*, *S. Typhimurium*, and *S. Choleraesuis* from the 11 hospitals, stratified by region of Taiwan, is shown in Table 1. Overall, ciprofloxacin resistance was found in 2.7% (18/671) of all nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates from humans, 1.4% in *S. Typhimurium* and 7.5% in *S. Choleraesuis* nationwide (Table 1). Among *S. Choleraesuis* isolates, the highest rate of ciprofloxacin resistance was found in hospital B (28.5%) and southern region of Taiwan (9.5%). Among *S. Typhimurium* isolates, the highest rate of ciprofloxacin resistance was found in hospital D (25.0%) and in the northern region of Taiwan (3.5%). Nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates recovered from patients in eastern region of Taiwan were all susceptible to ciprofloxacin. Rates of resistance to ampicillin and chloramphenicol were higher in eastern Taiwan than those from other regions of Taiwan. Resistance to cefotaxime (three hospitals tested ceftriaxone instead of cefotaxime) among all nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates was low (<1%). However, 6% and 4% of *S. Choleraesuis* isolates recovered from central and southern Taiwan, respectively, were resistant to cefotaxime (ceftriaxone).

### Prevalence of Ciprofloxacin Resistance at Hospital A

The annual number of nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates (*Salmonella* group B and *Salmonella* group C) ranged from 294 in 1996 (182 and 46, respectively) to 90 in 2001 (76 and 8, respectively). Overall, the rate of ciprofloxacin resistance among nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates was 2.1%. For *Salmonella* group B isolates, the rates of ciprofloxacin resistance were high (6% to 9%) during 1996 and 1997, reached a trough in 1999 (3%), and increased gradually in the following 2 years (4% in 2000 to 5% in 2001). Annual rates of resistance to ciprofloxacin among *Salmonella* group C isolates fluctuated during the same 6-

year period (data not shown). In 1996, 1998, and 2001, none of the isolates were resistant to ciprofloxacin, and the highest rate of ciprofloxacin resistance was found in 2000 (13%).

The annual rates of resistance to ampicillin, cefotaxime, chloramphenicol, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole among all nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates, *Salmonella* group B, and *Salmonella* group C at hospital A from 1996 to 2001 were evaluated. Overall, the prevalence of resistance to cefotaxime among these isolates was low (0% to 4%). Rates of resistance to ampicillin, chloramphenicol, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole among all nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates declined gradually from 1996 (64%, 64%, and 42%, respectively) to 2000 (47%, 52%, and 34%, respectively). In 2001, however, rates of resistance to ampicillin (73%) and chloramphenicol (76%) increased but that of trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (28%) continued to decrease. A similar scenario was found among *Salmonella* group B isolates. For *Salmonella* group C isolates, rates of resistance to these agents also fluctuated during the study period.

#### Antimicrobial Susceptibilities of Human Ciprofloxacin-resistant Isolates

All of the human ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates were highly resistant to ampicillin (MIC  $\geq 128$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), chloramphenicol (MIC  $\geq 128$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole ( $\geq 128$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) but susceptible to cefotaxime (MIC 0.06–8  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ). These ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates from humans all exhibited high-levels of resistance to ciprofloxacin (MIC 8 to 64  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), levofloxacin (MIC 32–64  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), moxifloxacin (MIC 32–28  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), gatifloxacin (MIC 16–32  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), garenoxacin (MIC 16–64  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), and trovafloxacin (MIC 8–64  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ).

#### Fluoroquinolone Susceptibilities among Swine *S. Choleraesuis* Isolates

All 15 isolates of *S. Typhimurium* and *Choleraesuis* from pigs had reduced susceptibility to ciprofloxacin (MIC  $\geq 0.125$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ). Eight of the 15 isolates (53%) were susceptible or intermediate to ciprofloxacin according to the NCCLS breakpoint recommendation (MIC  $\leq 2$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ). Seven (47%) isolates had high ciprofloxacin MICs (MIC  $\geq 64$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ); these seven isolates were also highly resistant to five other newer fluoroquinolones: levofloxacin (MIC 32–64  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), moxifloxacin (MIC 32–128  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), trovafloxacin (MIC 64  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), gatifloxacin (MIC 16–32  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), and garenoxacin (MIC 32–64  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ).

#### Nucleotide Sequence Analysis

Of human ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Typhimurium* isolates, all were associated with two-base substitutions in the QRDR of *gyrA* at codon 83 (Ser83Phe) (TCC→TTC) and 87 (Asp87Gly) (GAC→GGC), and either Ser80Arg or Glu84Lys in the QRDR of the *parC* gene (Table 2). One base substitution in the QRDR of *gyrA* (Ser83Tyr or Ser83Phe) was found in ciprofloxacin-susceptible isolates. One isolate had a mutation in the QRDR of the *gyrB* gene, but none had mutations in the QRDR of the *parE* gene. None of the *S. Typhimurium* isolates, including ciprofloxacin-susceptible or -resistant isolates, had mutations in the *acrR* genes.

Of human ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Choleraesuis*, all were associated with two-base substitutions in the QRDR of the *gyrA* gene at codon 83 (Ser83Phe) and 87 (Asp87Asn), Ser80Ile in the QRDR of the *parC* gene, and Gln78Stp in the QRDR of the *acrR* gene (Table 3). None of these isolates had mutations in the QRDR of the *gyrB* or *parE* genes. One base substitution in the QRDR of the

Table 2. Characteristics of *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhimurium isolates from humans<sup>a</sup> and pigs,<sup>b</sup> Taiwan

Ciprofloxacin susceptibility (N)	MIC ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	Mutation at								Genotype: genosubtype
		<i>gyrA</i> gene		<i>parC</i> gene			<i>acrR</i> gene			
		Ser83Phe Asp87Gly (N)	Ser83Phe Asp87Asn (N)	Ser83Phe (N)	Ser83Tyr (N)	Ser80Arg (N)	Glu84Lys (N)	Gln78Stp (N)	Arg107Cys (N)	
Humans										
Resistant (26)	16-64	24	2	0	0	24	2	0	0	I (26), Ia (4), Ic (5), Id (6), Ie (1), If (1), Ig (2), Ih (1), Ii (1), Ij (1), Ik (2), Il (1)
Susceptible (5)	0.03-0.25	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	IIa (1), IIb (1), III (1), IV (1), V (1)
Pigs										
Resistant (2)	128	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	I (2): Ic (1), Im (1)

<sup>a</sup>N = 31.

<sup>b</sup>N = 2.



*gyrA* (Asp87Asn) was found in the ciprofloxacin-susceptible isolates.

Of pig herd ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Typhimurium* isolates (N = 2), both had a mutation in the QRDR of the *gyrA* and *parC* genes, respectively (Table 2). None of these isolates had mutations in the QRDR of the *gyrB*, *parE*, or *arcR* genes. Among pig herd ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Choleraesuis* isolates, all had two mutations in the QRDR of *gyrA* (Ser83Phe plus Asp87Asn or Asp87Gly) and one mutation in *parC* (Ser80Ile) and *arcR* (Gln78Stp) (Table 3).

### PFGE Analysis and Genotypes

All of the ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Typhimurium* isolates from humans had the same pulsotype (pulsotype S) when the *SpeI* restriction enzyme was used. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the pulsotypes and pulsosubtypes of *S. Typhimurium* (Figures 1A and 1B) and *S. Choleraesuis* (Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C) isolates by *XbaI* and *BlnI*. Using *XbaI* and *BlnI*, we observed six and eight pulsosubtypes, respectively, for *S. Typhimurium* isolates. Among *S. Choleraesuis* isolates, one pulsotype (x) and one pulsosubtype (x-1) were observed when the *XbaI* restriction enzyme was used, and two pulsotypes (a and b) with six pulsosubtypes (b-1 to b-6) were observed when the *BlnI* restriction enzyme was used. Using the three restriction enzymes, we found that all ciprofloxacin-susceptible isolates of *S. Typhimurium* and *Choleraesuis* had different genosubtypes (clones).

Among human ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Typhimurium* isolates, all were closely related (genotype I) and belonged to 11 genosubtypes (genosubtypes Ia to Ik). Among the 11 genosubtypes, Ia (4 isolates), Ic (5 isolates), and Id (6 iso-

lates) predominated. The five ciprofloxacin-susceptible isolates belonged to four genotypes (II–V) (Table 2). None of the genotypes among the *S. Typhimurium* isolates studied were identical to those of DT104.

Of human *S. Choleraesuis* isolates, 91% (10 of the 11 isolates) belonged to genotype B, which was different from those of the five ciprofloxacin-susceptible isolates from humans (genotypes C to G). None of the six genosubtypes (B1 to B6) of the genotype B isolates was predominant. Two isolates collected within 7 days of one another from patient 4 had identical genosubtypes (B2), but those from patient 7 had differing genosubtypes (B4 and B5) (Table 3).

Seven (54%) of the 13 swine *S. Choleraesuis* isolates belonged to genotype B (Table 3). Among the six genosubtypes of genotype B, two genosubtypes (B2 and B5) were also found in human isolates. Two swine isolates that showed decreased susceptibility to ciprofloxacin (MICs, 0.5 µg/mL and 2 µg/mL, respectively) also belonged to genotype B (genosubtypes B7 and B10, respectively).

### Evidence for Active Efflux

Ciprofloxacin uptake appeared to be remarkably low in the two ciprofloxacin-resistant genotypes (genosubtypes Ia and B1) (Figure 3). A rapid increase in cell-associated ciprofloxacin uptake among isolates belonging to the genosubtypes was evident after addition of carbonyl cyanide m-chlorophenylhydrazone (CCCP), a proton motive force uncoupler.

### Discussion

This report describes the rates of antimicrobial resistance among nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates in a universi-

Table 3. Characteristics of *Salmonella enterica* serotype Choleraesuis isolates from humans<sup>a</sup> and pigs<sup>b</sup> in Taiwan

Ciprofloxacin susceptibility (N)	MIC (µg/mL)	Mutation at								Genotype: genosubtype (N)
		<i>gyrA</i> gene				<i>parC</i> gene		<i>arcR</i> gene		
		Ser83Phe Asp87Asn (N)	Ser83Phe (N)	Asp87Asn (N)	Ser83Tyr (N)	Asp87Gyr (N)	Ser80Ile (N)	Gln78Stp (N)	Arg107Cys (N)	
<b>Humans</b>										
Resistant (11)	16–64	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	A (1); B (10); B1 (2), B2 (2), B3 (2), B4 (1), B5 (2), B6 (1)
Susceptible (5)	0.03–0.25	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	C (1), D (1), E (1), F (1), G (1)
<b>Pigs</b>										
Resistant (5)	64	5	5	0	0	0	5	5	0	0 B (5): B2 (1), B5 (1), B8 (1), B9 (2)
Susceptible or intermediate (8)	0.5–2	0	1	1	2	4	0	0	0	B (2); B7 (1), B10 (1); H (1), I (1), J (3), K (1)

<sup>a</sup>N=16.

<sup>b</sup>N=13.

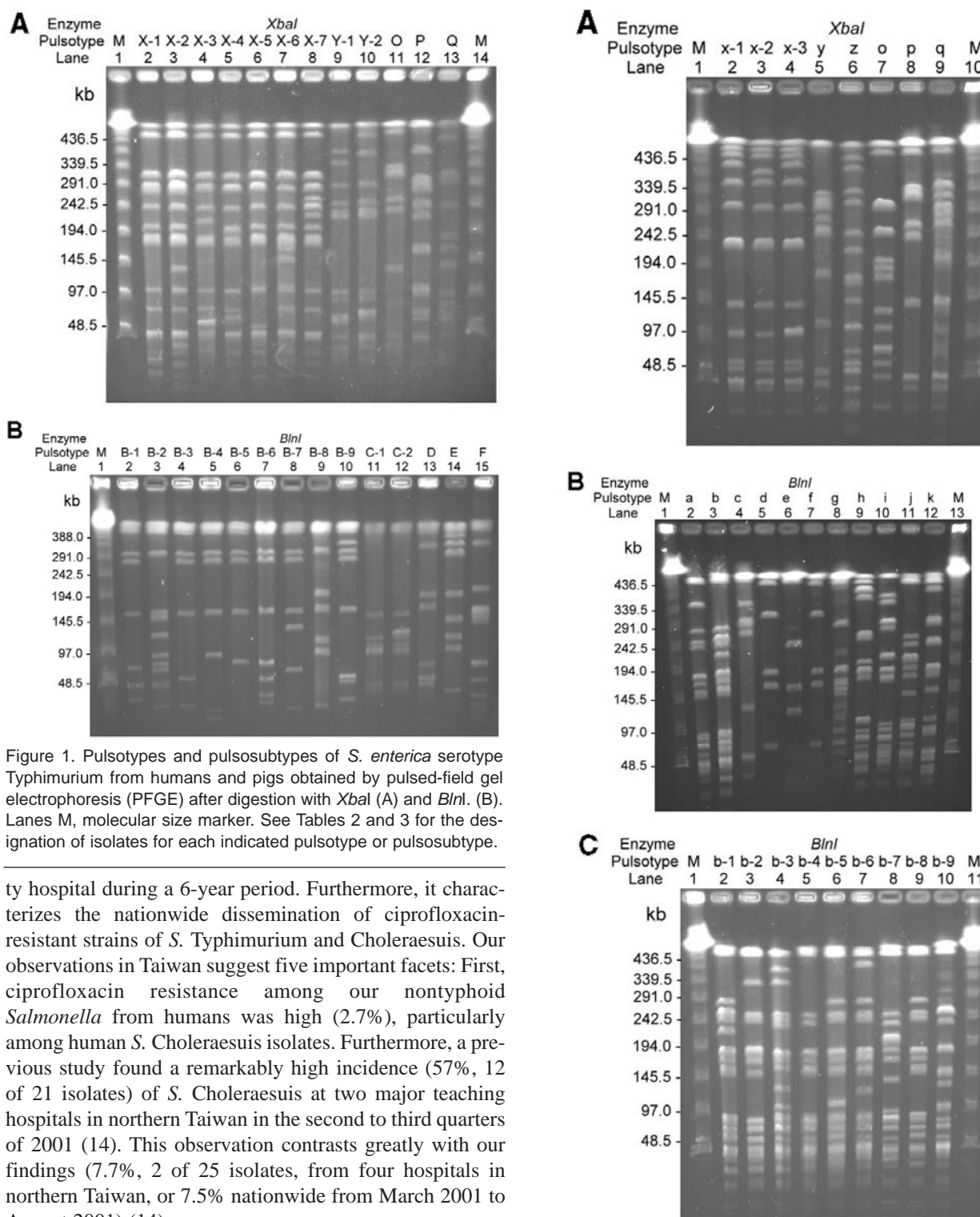


Figure 1. Pulsotypes and pulsosubtypes of *S. enterica* serotype Typhimurium from humans and pigs obtained by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) after digestion with *XbaI* (A) and *BlnI*. (B). Lanes M, molecular size marker. See Tables 2 and 3 for the designation of isolates for each indicated pulsotype or pulsosubtype.

ty hospital during a 6-year period. Furthermore, it characterizes the nationwide dissemination of ciprofloxacin-resistant strains of *S. Typhimurium* and *Choleraesuis*. Our observations in Taiwan suggest five important facets: First, ciprofloxacin resistance among our nontyphoid *Salmonella* from humans was high (2.7%), particularly among human *S. Choleraesuis* isolates. Furthermore, a previous study found a remarkably high incidence (57%, 12 of 21 isolates) of *S. Choleraesuis* at two major teaching hospitals in northern Taiwan in the second to third quarters of 2001 (14). This observation contrasts greatly with our findings (7.7%, 2 of 25 isolates, from four hospitals in northern Taiwan, or 7.5% nationwide from March 2001 to August 2001) (14).

Second, nearly all ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Choleraesuis* isolates from humans and pigs collected in 1999–2002 were closely related to one another (genotype B) and differed from those found in pigs in 1997–1998 (these isolates had highly diverse genotypes). These find-

Figure 2. Pulsotypes and pulsosubtypes of *Salmonella enterica* serotype *Choleraesuis* from humans and pigs obtained by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) after digestion with *XbaI* (A) and *BlnI* (B and C). Lanes M, molecular size marker. See Tables 2 and 3 for the designation of isolates for each indicated pulsotype or pulsosubtype.

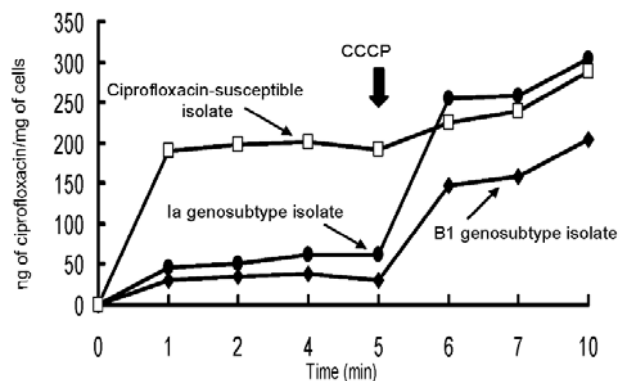


Figure 3. Accumulation of ciprofloxacin by the two ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates of genosubtype Ia of *Salmonella* Typhimurium and genosubtype B1 of *S. Choleraesuis* and one clinical isolate of *S. Typhimurium* (ciprofloxacin MIC = 0.06  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ). Carbonyl cyanide m-chlorophenylhydrazone (CCCP) (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) was added at the time indicated by the arrow.

ings suggest that nationwide dissemination of *S. Choleraesuis* isolates from pigs to humans occurred from 1999 to 2002. Two isolates (AC-6 and AC-10) of *S. Choleraesuis* from pigs had reduced susceptibility to ciprofloxacin (MICs, 0.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  and 2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , respectively). They had an identical genotype (genotype B) to that of most of the epidemic strains found in humans and pigs. These strains had high-level ciprofloxacin resistance (MIC 16 to 64  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ). This indicates that the swine isolates with reduced susceptibility to ciprofloxacin might be an ancestor (a unique clone line) of the isolates that are highly resistant to ciprofloxacin and which have spread among herbs and humans nationwide (23,27).

Third, the *S. Typhimurium* strains (genotype I) with high-level fluoroquinolone resistance have been widely disseminated in humans in Taiwan since 1996. Strains belonging to genotype I and the other genotypes found in this study were domestically acquired and were not related to the clones of DT104, which were already disseminated throughout Europe and the United States (15,23). In 1998, one isolate exhibiting genotype I (genosubtype Ic) was isolated from a pig from southern Taiwan. Further studies on *S. Typhimurium* isolates from animals should be conducted to identify the primary source of the epidemic genotype strains.

Fourth, an increasing prevalence of resistance to ampicillin and chloramphenicol over time was observed in human *S. Typhimurium* isolates at hospital A. The spread of third-generation cephalosporin-resistant isolates harboring plasmid-mediated CMY-2 like cephalosporinase among *S. Typhimurium* isolates has been previously reported in Taiwan (6). Although all of the highly ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates in our study were susceptible to cefotaxime, according to NCCLS guidelines (24),

five isolates from four patients with high cefotaxime MICs (MIC 4–8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) is noteworthy. The emergence of decreased susceptibility to cefotaxime, along with the pre-existing ciprofloxacin resistance among nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates, particularly those causing bloodstream infection, makes antimicrobial therapy more complicated.

Finally, rates of resistance varied geographically; higher rates of resistance to ampicillin and chloramphenicol were found in the eastern region of Taiwan. However, none of the nontyphoid *Salmonella* isolates collected in the eastern region of Taiwan was resistant to ciprofloxacin.

*S. Typhimurium* and *S. Choleraesuis* isolates with high levels of resistance to ampicillin, chloramphenicol, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, ciprofloxacin, and other newer fluoroquinolones were rarely previously reported (2,19,28,30,34). In most gram-negative bacteria, including *Salmonella*, a high-level of fluoroquinolone resistance is related to the presence of multiple mutations in the QRDRs of the genes, particularly in the *gyrA* and *parC* genes (8,13,14,19,27,28,35).

Additional resistance mechanisms, such as decreased cell envelope permeability (loss of outer membrane porins or alterations of the lipopolysaccharide), decreased cellular accumulation of quinolones involving the major multidrug active efflux pump (AcrAB), or the presence of integrons, can also be responsible for fluoroquinolone resistance and resistance to a wide range of antimicrobial agents (31,35–39). Mutations in the *acrR* (regulator/repressor) gene are partly responsible for fluoroquinolone resistance in *Escherichia coli* (29). In our study, the two major genotypes (genotypes I and B) of ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates had both mutations in the *gyrA* (at least two mutations) and *parC* (at least one mutation) genes. The addition of CCCP, resulted in an increase in cell-associated ciprofloxacin uptake. This indicated that an active efflux contributed to fluoroquinolone resistance (28–31). In our study, *acrR* mutations were found in ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Choleraesuis*, but not in *Typhimurium*, isolates. This finding is consistent with that of previous reports (30). Further studies are warranted to add clarification to the complexity of the mechanisms of high-level resistance among *S. Typhimurium* and *Choleraesuis* isolates.

PFGE analysis using restriction enzyme *XbaI* is a well-established method for epidemiologic typing of the *Salmonella* species (9,16,23,32). However, PFGE patterns by *XbaI* for most ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates investigated, including *S. Choleraesuis* isolates from human and animal origins, were indistinguishable. This scenario was also found in PFGE patterns for human *S. Typhimurium* isolates. When *BlnI* was added, the discriminatory power of pulsotyping improved among these ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates. Genotyping by using pulsotypes generated by

*XbaI* and *BlnI* clearly demonstrated that several ciprofloxacin-resistant clones (particularly, genosubtypes Ia, Ic, and Id of *S. Typhimurium*) had disseminated to humans in Taiwan. Furthermore, some genosubtypes of ciprofloxacin-resistant *S. Choleraesuis* were found only in humans, and some were found only in pigs; however, two clones (genosubtypes B2 and B5) were found in both humans and pigs.

Research studies have provided evidence that antimicrobial agents used in agriculture and closely related agents used in human medicine have been exerting selective pressure on their target bacteria, particularly *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and *Escherichia coli* (1,20,40). In Taiwan, quinolones (e.g., enrofloxacin) have been used in animals and humans (from nalidixic acid to the latest fluoroquinolone moxifloxacin) for >30 years. A governmental survey among farmers and feed mill operators in 1999 indicated that 40% of farmers and 50% of feed mill operators used quinolone agents (particularly enrofloxacin) on their flocks or herds of pigs for growth promotion or therapeutic purposes (41). Previous investigations demonstrated that >90% of *Campylobacter* species and 6% of *E. coli* from chickens were resistant to ciprofloxacin (41,42). When the selective pressure of quinolones persisted, isolates, or some clones with reduced susceptibility (a single *gyrA* mutation) to quinolones, might develop full resistance (two *gyrA* mutations or multiple mutations in the QRDRs of other genes) in animals or humans and could probably jump from animals to humans (14,27). Our observations and findings from Chiu et al. indicate that outbreak-associated human *Salmonella* strains with high-level ciprofloxacin resistance might have emerged several years ago, similar to strains with antibiotic types of reduced susceptibility, but with identical genotypes, in humans or animals (14).

In conclusion, our investigation documented that *S. Typhimurium* and *S. Choleraesuis* isolates, which are highly fluoroquinolone-resistant and multidrug-resistant, have become widespread pathogens in Taiwan. The recent occurrence of ciprofloxacin resistance among *Salmonella* in animals, and its nationwide spread, is of particular concern. The remaining therapeutic options available to veterinarians and physicians for treatment of extraintestinal salmonellosis and other invasive infections include only third-generation cephalosporins. However, ciprofloxacin-resistant isolates, with reduced susceptibility to cefotaxime, have already emerged in Taiwan. Restricted use of quinolones in animal husbandry and active surveillance of quinolone resistance among *Salmonella* are crucial mitigation efforts to reduce selection and clonal spread of quinolone-resistant *Salmonella*.

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