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New times, old diseases, echinococcosis/hydatidosis, a zoonosis to respect!

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Abstract

Echinococcosis / hydatidosis is a parasitic zoonosis caused by *Echinococcus* spp. This is the most important parasitic zoonosis in the Mediterranean, and in Portugal is widespread. Echinococcosis refers to the disease caused by the adult parasite in definitive hosts (carnivores) and hydatidosis by the larval form - hydatid cyst - in intermediate hosts (ungulates and humans). The adult parasites live in the intestine and release eggs in faeces that will be ingested leading to the development of hydatid cysts preferably in lung and liver, causing major morbidity and mortality in humans and great economic losses in livestock. For hydatidosis prevention, carnivores should be dewormed and never feed with raw viscera. It is important to improve health education of the population, but also the systematic meat inspection of reses, especially in the case of traditional slaughtering and hunting. It is also needed to dewormed carnivores and never feed them with raw viscera.