

Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences

Turkish Journal

of

Medical Sciences



Coxiella burnetii seroprevalence in the rural part of Bolu, Turkey*

Oğuz KARABAY¹

Esra KOCOĞLU²

Gökhan BAYSOY³

Selami KONYALIOĞLU⁴

 [Keywords](#)
 [Authors](#)



medsci@tubitak.gov.tr

[Scientific Journals Home Page](#)

¹ Department of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology, Sakarya Education and Research Hospital, Sakarya - TURKEY

² Department of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Abant İzzet Baysal University, Bolu - TURKEY

³ Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Abant İzzet Baysal University, Bolu - TURKEY

⁴ Contagious Diseases, Department of Bolu Province, The Ministry of Health of Turkey, Bolu - TURKEY

Abstract: Aim: This study was performed to determine the seroprevalence of *Coxiella burnetii* in the rural part of Bolu, a city located in the western part of the Black Sea region of Turkey. Materials and Methods: The study population was chosen by cluster sampling to represent the rural population of the city. Serum samples were collected from the 9 rural districts of Bolu. Blood samples were taken to the laboratory while stored at 4 °C in ice-cooled boxes. The sera were then stored at -20 °C until testing. The presence of IgG antibodies against *C. burnetii* phase-II antigens in the sera was determined using IFA. Results: The study included 293 cases and *C. burnetii* phase-II IgG was positive in 61 of the subjects (20.8%). The seroprevalence of *C. burnetii* was 23.8% (59/248) among the participants above 18 years of age and 4.4% (2/45) among those younger than 18 years of age ($P < 0.01$). There was a significant relationship between *C. burnetii* seropositivity and direct contact with the birth products of farm animals ($P < 0.001$); however, there was not a significant difference between genders. Conclusions: Although the seroprevalence rate was high, Q fever was underreported and unrecognized in rural Bolu. We conclude that Q fever must be considered in patients with a suitable clinical course in this region.

Key words: *Coxiella burnetii*, seroprevalence, Bolu, Turkey

Turk J Med Sci 2009; **39**(4): 641-645.

Full text: [pdf](#)

Other articles published in the same issue: [Turk J Med Sci.vol.39,iss.4.](#)