Central European Journal of Public Health 1, 1993, No. 2, p. 78-80.

WATER-BORNE HOUSEHOLD INFECTIONS DUE TO *MYCOBACTERIUM XENOPI*

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SUMMARY

Of 21 *M. xenopi* excretors recorded in Prague in 1990, 13 suffered from a serious pulmonary disease and the organisms were detected repeatedly in all of them. In 11 flats of these excretors water samples were collected from faucets and showers and *M. xenopi* was detected in five of them, as well as in five neighbouring flats. In flats of six remaining excretors and 12 adjoining flats, *M. xenopi* was not found. However, in 14 of 28 examined flats, the clinically insignificant *M. gordonae* was isolated. Water samples from three waterworks, six regional water reservoirs and 10 street hydrants did not harbour mycobacteria. In the authors' view *M. xenopi* originating from infected drinking water outlets may cause infections in exposed household dwellers.

Key words: M. xenopi, drinking water as a possible factor of transmission of opportunist mycobacteria

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