

## Assessment of the hygienic quality of some smoked meat products in alexandria governorate

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### Abstract

A total of one hundred 100 samples of smoked meat products were collected from different supermarkets and also from meat processing plant apply quality management system at Alexandria province. The samples were hot dog and frankfurter. The samples were examined bacteriologically for total colony count, psychrotrophic count and detection of aerobic spore formers, detection also of salmonella and staphylococcus aureus. We also test the samples chemically for determination of sodium nitrite and measure pH. Results indicated that the bacteriological quality and chemical analysis of samples collected from plant were within the legal limit. While most samples collected from supermarkets were exceeded the acceptable limits of aerobic psychrotrophic count, aerobic spore formers, as well as sodium nitrite and salmonella could not be detected in all samples. We could conclude that quality assurance program which improve the hygienic quality to produce safe and quality of hot dog and frankfurter were discussed to be employed.

### Introduction

During the last decade, the demand of ready-to-eat meat products have increased in Egyptian food markets. So, the production of such types food has also grown rapidly and varied. Hot dog and frankfurter as smoked cooked meat products are delicatessen meat products which is tasty, easily digested, and of high quality animal protein as well as has enough amounts of vitamins and minerals. Hot dog and Frankfurter are delicatessen as cooked meat products, formulated raw meat, common salt, sodium chloride and nitrite... etc. Filled case is then subjected to a long term of heat treatment with various controls. e.g. chamber temperature, product temperature, relative humidity controls. The quality of Hot dog & Frankfurter are influenced by the quality of ingredient, although the ingredient may constitute a small part of the total food, may add a substantial number of hazards.

In recent years there has been world-wide renewed interest in meat hygiene. Outbreaks of food-borne illness associated with bacterial agents are reported 6 times a year (Vander Linde et al., 1998). Many of these illnesses are due to growth of pathogens and/or toxin formation.

Millions of people worldwide suffer from some sort of food poisoning each year. Uncontrolled and abusive application of agricultural chemicals, environmental contaminants, use of unauthorized additives, improper food quality control and handling practices during food processing and other abuses of food along the chain can all contribute to the introduction of hazards or the failure to reduce hazards related to food. (White head and field, 1995).

Technological development in meat processing and handling have given consumers much greater choice over the food they can buy. So meat hygiene can control nearly every aspect of processing from the health of the live animal to the distribution of the final product, it prevents harmful ingredients manufactured meat products. The sale of contaminated meat. Processed meat products may at time constitute

public health hazards due to presence of spoilage microorganisms responsible objectionable changes or pathogenic leading to infection and in toxication. The quality of a product may be defined as its measurement against a standard regarded as excellent at a particular price which is satisfactory both to the producer and to the consumer. The aim of quality assurance is to ensure that a product conforms as closely as possible and consistently to that standard at all times. Food safety became more and more actual due to changing of the population and increased food infections. Eating habits moved more and more from hours cooking to convenient ready-to-eat products. This change in the market initiated new products and product presentation towards more risky products on the food safety level. Quality systems were considered foundations for food safety systems and too many standards were introduced covering the same target.

The importance of the link between nutrition and health becomes more and more a topic. (Aggett et al., 2005). One third of all cancers are caused by inappropriate intake and imbalance of food components. The aim of this work is directed to evaluate the quality of Hot dog & Frankfurter in a plant that applying quality assurance program as in a traditional plant.

### Material and methods

A total of one hundred random samples were collected from different supermarkets and also from meat processing plant applying quality management system at Alexandria governorate and 75 swabs from workers, utensils and machines. (Calculate colony count  $\text{cm}^2$ ) The collected samples were final product of Frankfurter and hotdog resembling samples of each.

The samples were transferred directly to the laboratory in an ice box under aseptic condition without any delay. Then the samples divided into two portions. The first portion for bacteriological examination and the other part for chemical examination.

#### I. Bacteriological examination of all samples

- A. Determination of total aerobic plate count (APC) (APHA, 1992).
- B. Total psychotropic bacterial count (ICMSF, 1978).
- C. Isolation of aerobic spore formers (Gibson & Gordon, 1974).
- D. Isolation and identification of *Staphylococcus aureus* (ICMSF, 1996).
- E. Detection of *Salmonella* spp. (Vassiliadis, 1983).

#### II. Chemical analysis of final product samples

- A. Quantitative estimation of sodium nitrite ( $\text{NaNO}_2$ ): (AOAC, 1975).
- B. Determination of PH (Chambers et al., 1976).

#### Results:

Table (1): Results of bacteriological examination of final product samples of hotdog samples/ gram in meat processing plants compared with supermarkets.

Parameters	Aerobic plate count		Psychotropic bacterial count	
	Supermarkets	Factory	Supermarkets	Factory
No. of examined samples	25	25	25	25
Minimum	$4.4 \times 10^5$	$1.9 \times 10^3$	$5.06 \times 10^5$	$3.06 \times 10^4$
Maximum	$5.8 \times 10^5$	$3.6 \times 10^4$	$6.3 \times 10^5$	$5.06 \times 10^4$
Mean	$5.08 \times 10^5 \pm 0.08 \times 10^5$	$2.9 \times 10^4 \pm 0.11 \times 10^4$	$5.7 \times 10^5 \pm 0.1 \times 10^5$	$3.9 \times 10^4 \pm 0.1 \times 10^4$

SE= Standard error of mean.

\*\* = supermarket and factory samples differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ )

Results present in table (1) indicated that the mean value of APC in hot dog was  $2.9 \times 10^4$  in examined final product samples of factory with range of  $1.9 \times 10^4$  &  $3.6 \times 10^4$ . In Samples collected from supermarkets ranged from  $4.4 \times 10^5$  to  $5.8 \times 10^5$  which higher than samples collected from factory. Also table (1) revealed that psychotrophic count in samples collected from supermarkets higher than samples collected from factory.

Table (2):Results of bacteriological examination of final product samples of frankfurt samples/ gram in meat processing plant compared with supermarkets.

Parameters	Aerobic plate count		Psychrotrophic bacterial count	
	Supermarkets	Factory	Supermarkets	Factory
No. of examined samples	25	25	25	25
Minimum	$3.3 \times 10^5$	$1.8 \times 10^3$	$4.1 \times 10^5$	$3.1 \times 10^3$
Maximum	$7.4 \times 10^5$	$3.8 \times 10^4$	$7.9 \times 10^5$	$5.6 \times 10^4$
Mean	$5.3 \times 10^5 \pm 0.2 \times 10^5$	$2.7 \times 10^4 \pm 0.1 \times 10^4$	$6.0 \times 10^5 \pm 0.2 \times 10^5$	$4.1 \times 10^4 \pm 0.1 \times 10^4$

SE= Standard error of mean. \*\* = supermarket and factory samples differ significantly (P < 0.05)

Table (2) shows that APC of frankfurter samples are higher than samples collected from factory, while from factory ranged from  $1.8 \times 10^3$  to  $3.8 \times 10^4$ , also table (1) discussed that psychotrophic count in samples collected from supermarket higher than samples collected from factory

Table (3):Results of chemical examination of final product samples of hotdog samples in meat processing plants compared with supermarkets:

Criteria	Factory	Supermarkets	ES limit
<b>pH</b>			
- Range	4.90 - 5.8	4.5 - 4.9	
- Mean $\pm$ SE	$5.31 \pm 0.05$	$4.62 \pm 0.03$	
<b>Na No<sub>2</sub></b>			125 ppm
- Range	87 - 120	135 - 210	
- Mean $\pm$ SE	$107.8 \pm 1.98$	$170 \pm 5.06$	

Chemical criteria of final product samples in table (3) revealed that the range of sodium nitrite of hot dog in plant were from 87 - 120 while PH ranged from 4.90 - 5.8 in factory and 135 - 210 to 4.5 - 4.9 in samples collected from supermarkets.

Table (4):Results of chemical examination of final product samples of frankfurt samples in meat processing plants compared with supermarket:

Criteria	Factory	Supermarkets	ES limit
<b>pH</b>			
- Range	5.80-6.60	5.80-6.90	
- Mean $\pm$ SE	$6.18 \pm 0.25$	$6.23 \pm 0.03$	
<b>Na No<sub>2</sub></b>			125 ppm
- Range	80 - 120	120-200	

The obtained results in table (4) revealed that the range of pH and sodium nitrite content in factory of frankfurter ranged from 5.80-6.60 and from 80 - 120 ppm, While in supermarkets were from 5.80 to 6.90 and from 120 to 200ppm.

Table (5): Results of total colony count of workers, walls and machines /cm<sup>2</sup>, in processing plants:

	Workers	Walls	Machines
Range	1×10 <sup>1</sup> - 1×10 <sup>2</sup>	0 - 1×10 <sup>1</sup>	0 - 1×10 <sup>1</sup>
Mean ± SE	5.32×10 <sup>1</sup> ± 0.918×10 <sup>1</sup>	4.8 ± 0.102×10 <sup>1</sup>	4 ± 0.1×10 <sup>1</sup>

Table (5) discuss aerobic plate count of swabs of workers walls & machines/ plant were 1×10<sup>1</sup> - 1×10<sup>2</sup>, 0 - 1×10<sup>1</sup>, 0 - 1×10<sup>1</sup> respectively with mean values 5.32×10<sup>1</sup>, 4.8 ± 0.102×10<sup>1</sup>, 4 ± 0.1×10<sup>1</sup>

### Discussion

Aerobic plate count is usually used to assess the overall sanitation and conditions of meat products, so it included in all meat regulations for hygienic quality grading. The obtained results of both products hotdog and frankfurter re that mean value of APC of examined samples Collected from supermarkets. Below the legal limit, this may be due to poor hygienic storage or those subjected to fluctuations nearly similar results were reported by Ahmed (1991). While the samples collected from the plant which apply quality management system within the acceptable limit of E.S (1972/2005) requirements. Psychotropic bacterial count of both products hotdog and frankfurter collected from supermarkets higher than those collected from the plant.

Nearly similar results were reported by (Carter et al., 1992) but lower than that reported by Dennis et al., (1972). Aerobic spore formers found at an incidence 30% & 30% both hotdog & frankfurter respectively in the samples collected from supermarkets. This may be due to the method of processing, the pre-packing conditions, handling and storage of such products. Nearly similar results were recorded by (Khalifa, 1999) who recommended that suitable heat or irradiation treatment should be used for the complete destruction of the organisms is warranted. Storage under suitable refrigeration temperature, through cooking & rapid serving of meat products is necessary as spore forming bacteria can survive in spore form after normal treatment & then germinate & proliferate during storage meat products, for which contamination may be critical, should therefore be made with spice extracts and natural spices. In addition, special attention should be given to spore content and other additives. S.M.L EL Shishnagui and E.M.E. Abd El -Hafiez (2001) reported the presence of large numbers is indicative of active growth and proliferation of organisms and is consistent with a potential health hazard specially when these products are sometimes eaten without post processing cooking.

Staphylococcus aureus was present at incidence (30%) in the examined samples collected from supermarkets of both hotdog and frankfurter. These results may be attributed to the improper processing condition. On the other hand Staphylococcus aureus could not be detected in the samples collected from the plant, this may be due to good hygienic practices and high standard personal hygiene of applied assurance program. Also, our results showed that we failed to detect Salmonella in all samples collected from both supermarkets and plant.

From chemical analysis of final product samples of both hot dog and frankfurter show that pH values of samples in plant similar to (Manal, 2001) (Hala and 2002) and also (Amal, 2004). pH of muscle tissue associated with the water

capacity of the muscle protein, visual colour, appearance and storage life of the product, muscle acidity is important in regulating shrinkage during processing and influence palatability. (Pearson, 1984).

While in supermarkets, pH higher than plant, may be attributed to kind of oil added to the mixture of products (hotdog-frankfurter). Or method of storage

Meat with a pH below 5.8 will have less water capacity and a pale colour which means significant cooking losses, while meat with higher pH it has the disadvantage of a greater risk of contamination and too dark colouring. (Bayne and Michener 1975). The ideal pH level for the meat products is between 5.8 and 6.3. While 6.5 may be considered as an indicative for starting spoilage of meat. (Pearson, 1968). Low pH mixture of sodium pyrophosphate, sodium tripoly phosphate, and sodium poly phosphate had a stabilizing effect upon pH during storage (Nelsen and Zeuthen, 1983).

Nitrite play a role in inhibition of most microorganisms but due to its carcinogenic effect nitrite percent considered as a critical control point if increased above accepted limit (Incze, 1995). The control of nitrite and salt in relation to the meat and verification of its residue on final product

Our results of sodium nitrite revealed that in plant (A) within legal permissible limit (12 ppm) from ES 1972/2005 (CCP critical control point). which declare controlling adding and mixing the salt (wafaa 2009). While in supermarkets most samples exceed the legal permissible limit, which may be due to improper adding and mixing of salt. Nitrites are added to meat to stabilize flavour, establish characteristic pink colour in cooked meat (Daniells, 2006). Amount of nitrite necessary for complete formation of nitric oxide myoglobin to stable pink colour was not more than 25 mg of nitrite / kg (MC Duvall, et al., 1975).

Hygiene could be assessed through good manufacturing practices (GMP) which include temperature control, cleaning and disinfection, control systems. The compliance of employees with good manufacturing practice (GMP), cleaning and sanitation program were the main control points at this step. So, the hygienic measure of utensils and employees were examined. Recently food borne illness was increased from the consumption of meat and meat products which were contaminated with human bacterial pathogens. Mishandling of food as well as uncleaned equipment surfaces were the most sources of contamination (Bryant and Lyon, 1984).

Rules about washing hands before contacting foods, use of utensils to handle products, disposable gloves, clean clothes, and protected hair need to be applied regardless of the size of the operation. Also hygienic working environment has a positive influence on staff's morale. (Sprenger, 1993). Generally, major problems are in processing plants in terms of waste disposal, plant environment, staff recruitment and training, provision of facilities, temperature, quality and hazard control. These affect the plant hygiene status and can thus represent a hazard to public health.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Application of quality assurance program during processing is important and improves the hygienic quality of product, but it is still not enough it needs to reach zero defects through application of HACCP system in plant vice versa in samples collected from supermarkets. Using the concepts of ISO (International Organization for Standardization), Codex Alimentarius and HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point). There are great relations between the basic food hygiene knowledge and hygienic practice, delivery of effective food safety risk communication messages to consumers. Prolonging the durability of the product through the reduction of

bacterial load which in-term protects the product from having a food poisoning and protects the consumers from pathogens which may be present for improving sanitary status of meat products and safeguarding the consumers from re-contaminated meat products can be achieved (Wafaa, 2009). Moreover, the control of food born diseases requires that the HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Control Point) system should be strongly applied to prevent health hazards, all measures and more which strictly must be applied are included in ISO 22000 days. (Hashim, 2009).

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## ملخص العربي

بم الجودة الصحية لبعض منتجات اللحوم المدخنة في محافظة الإسكندرية  
أ. فؤاد السيد سليمان

بد بحوث صحة الحيوان- معمل بحوث صحة الأغذية بجمرك الإسكندرية  
ت الدراسة على ١٠٠ عينة من منتجات اللحوم المدخنة المجمع من السوبر ماركت المختلفة  
محافظة الإسكندرية وأيضاً من مصنع لإنتاج اللحوم يطبق برنامج توكيد الجودة هذه العينات تشمل كل  
الهوت دوج والفرانكفورتر. وتم فحص هذه العينات بكتريولوجيا والعدد الكلي للبكتيريا الهوائية  
ضاً العد الكلي للبكتيريا المحبة للبرودة، وعزل البكتيريا الهوائية المكونة للجرثومات وعزل  
بكتيريا العنقودي الذهبي وأيضاً عزل ميكروب السالمونيلا وأيضاً التحليل الكيميائي وتقدير قيمة  
ن. الهيدروجيني وقياس نسبة نيتريت الصوديوم؛ كما تم تجميع عدد ٧٥ مسحة من كل العمال و  
كينات في المصنع لتوضح الحالة الصحية للمصنع و نتجت أنها جيدة وأوضحت النتائج أن  
ودة البكتريولوجية والكيميائية للعينات المجمع من المصنع في الحدود المسموح بها بينما معظم  
بات التي جمعت من السوبر ماركت زادت عن الحدود المقبولة في العد الكلي للبكتيريا الهوائية،  
عد الكلي للبكتيريا المحبة للبرودة والبكتيريا الهوائية الجرثومية. أوضحت الاختبارات الكيميائية أن  
وديوم نيتريت في السوبر ماركت أعلى من الحد المسموح به وكذلك أعلى من منتجات المصنع وقد  
نظ ارتفاع الأس الهيدروجيني عن ما هو في المنتج الناتج من المصنع المطبق للجودة. بالإضافة إلى  
، أن جميع العينات لم يستدل فيها على وجود ميكروب السالمونيلا. نستطيع أن نستخلص من هذه  
إاسة أن تطبيق برنامج توكيد الجودة قد رفع الجودة الصحية لإنتاج منتج آمن وصحي وعالي الجودة  
كل من الهوت دوج والفرانكفورتر. هذا وقد نوقشت المعايير الموصى بها في الاشتراطات الصحية  
مارسات المتطلبية لتطبيقها.