

Search of mycobacteria other than tuberculosis in bottled mineral waters

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Summary

The Authors examined for the presence of Mycobacteria other Than Tuberculosis (MOTT) 53 samples of bottled mineral water bought in supermarkets in Florence area; 9 of these samples were added with carbon dioxide. Mycobacteria were found in 5 bottles of natural mineral water (10.6%) with concentrations generally very low (3-16 cfu/litre), except for our sample which showed large numbers of Mycobacterium chelonae (600 cfu/litre). The most frequently isolated species was M. chelonae (three samples); one strain was M. gordonae and one belonging to II Runyon group.

The significance of the detection of mycobacteria in bottled mineral waters as a possible problem of public health has been discussed.