

Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae and contact with snow crab

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Dear Editor,
We read the report by Wilson *et al.* with great interest.^[1] The case is a patient who is a crab fisherman and butcher.^[1] Wilson *et al.* mentioned snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*) as a known carrier of *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae*.^[1] In general, *E. rhusiopathiae* is observable in several animals.^[2] In the present case, the patient might have got the pathogen from other sources, because the patient is a fisherman and had the opportunity to be in contact with many animals. Regarding snow crab (*C. opilio*), there is no report that it is a common source of *E. rhusiopathiae*. Indeed, crab is a rare possible source of *E. rhusiopathiae*. A good example is the report by Ognibene *et al.*^[3] Nevertheless, there has never been any previous case report of *E. rhusiopathiae* infection due to *C. opilio* contact according to the literature, after a search on PubMed. Finally, Wilson *et al.* noted that “the organism has been reported as infecting humans and other animals since the late

19th century.”^[1] The first confirmation that this pathogen causes human disease is by Rosenbach in 1909, which is in the 20th century.^[4,5]

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