Salmonellosis caused by contaminated cuttlefish chips spread throughout Japan from December 1998 to May 1999. We first identified *Salmonella* Oranienburg (1,2) and *S. Chester* (3,4) as causative agents. During the outbreak, we obtained 62 *S.* Oranienburg and 12 *S.* Chester isolates from diarrheal stools collected in Hyogo Prefecture in the central part of Japan. However, the source of isolation was not restricted to stools. *S.* Oranienburg was isolated from various parts of the body, suggesting that the *Salmonella* caused systemic infection.

Case 1 was a 68-year-old female whose chief complaints were abdominal pain, diarrhea, and nausea. She had cholecystitis. Her bile juice contained *S.* Oranienburg. Case 2 was a 13-year-old male who had enterocolitis-associated nausea and purulent gonarthritis. *S.* Oranienburg was isolated from coxal pus. Case 3 was a 12-year-old female who had abdominal pain due to enterocolitis. She was diagnosed as having osteomyelitis of the spine. *S.* Oranienburg was isolated from vertebral bodies. Case 4 was a 3-year-old female whose chief symptom was fever. She had purulent gonarthritis which resulted in sepsis. A blood culture revealed infection with *S.* Oranienburg. Case 5 was a one-year-old female who had diarrhea. She was septicemic with *S.* Oranienburg. All five patients had ingested cuttlefish chips “Oyatsu-Chinmi”.

The five isolates were examined by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) by using a Gene Path Typing System (Nippon Bio-Rad, Tokyo). PFGE patterns of *BlnI* or *XbaI* digests of the chromosomal DNA were compared. All of the isolates had an identical pattern. The pattern was also identical to the one exhibited by the isolates from diarrheal stool and from cuttlefish chips.

Enterocolitis is the most common symptom of salmonellosis. Systemic infections can be produced by *Salmonellae* but are relatively rare when produced by species other than *S. typhi* and *S. paratyphi A* (5). The systemic infections caused by *S.* Oranienburg reported here thus need attention. The vertebral infection observed in case 3 represents a rare clinical phenomenon. However, a similar case was reported in the same outbreak, a retroperitoneal abscess was observed in an 8-year-old female who was infected by ingesting cuttlefish chips contaminated with *Salmonella* (6).

**REFERENCES**