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## The epidemiology of brucellosis in Oman: a seven-year retrospective analysis (2017-2023)

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**B**rucellosis is a zoonotic disease with a significant impact on Middle Eastern countries, including Oman. Its diagnosis is challenging due to non-specific symptoms and difficulty in interpreting serological test results. **Methods:** A retrospective cross-sectional study, conducted among patients diagnosed with brucellosis in Oman over seven years (2017–2023), using two datasets: the first included all notified cases reported to the Ministry of Health from 2017 to 2023, providing a comprehensive epidemiological profile, while the second focused on laboratory-confirmed cases from Central Public Health Laboratories and Sultan Qaboos Hospital in Salalah, comparing the cases between the northern and southern governorates of Oman. **Results:** Among 3,383 cases, 77.2% were from the southern governorate (Dhofar) and 22.8% from northern regions. Males were predominantly affected. The 30-39 age group had the highest incidence in both regions, with young children (0-9 years) also significantly affected in Dhofar.

### Biography

Dr. Ahad Al Balushi, a medical microbiology resident at the Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB), is the primary investigator for this study. Interested in infectious diseases, epidemiological studies and rare zoonotic diseases. Has a publication on sexually transmitted diseases.

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