INTRODUCTION

Meat is world widely known to be a nutrient rich food. It provides valuable amounts of proteins, vitamins such as retinol and vitamin B12 and minerals namely iron, selenium and zinc with an increased bioavailability than found in other dietary sources [1]. Along the production chain, meat can get contaminated by a wide range of spoilage and/or pathogenic microorganisms. Salmonella is reported to be the causal agent of 33% of food borne outbreaks of bacterial origin attributable to meat [2]. Previous studies have indicated a Salmonella prevalence of 3.4% in meat based dishes consumed within the households of Kagili. However, the consumption pattern as well as the prevalence of Salmonella in meat based dishes consumed outside the household is still unknown. The objective of this study was to determine the meat consumption pattern outside the household’s level and to assess the bacteriological quality of the consumed meat based dishes.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Survey on meat consumption: The survey on meat consumption was conducted in 357 households representative of the population of Kigali by using a structured questionnaire.

Bacteriological analyses: Meat based dishes were analyzed for Salmonella detection by using the ISO 6579:2002 standard protocol.

Determination of risk factors: Informations on meat hygiene were collected from 150 bars and restaurions through a structured questionnaire. The binary logistic regression analysis was used to determine the factors associated to the contamination of meat based dishes by Salmonella.

MEAT CONSUMPTION OUTSIDE THE HOUSEHOLD

SALMONELLA IN MEAT BASED DISHES

MAIN FINDINGS

Meat based dishes are regularly consumed outside the household’s circle in Kigali although the consumed quantity appears to be low especially in low income households. Goat brochettes constitute the mostly consumed meat based dish. The prevalence of Salmonella in meat based dishes sold in bars and restaurants of Kigali was found to be relatively high. Seven risk factors for Salmonella contamination of meat based dishes were identified and most of them dealt with hygienic practices.

Therefore, there is a need to improve hygienic meat handling and cooking practices in the snack-bars and restaurants of Kigali in order to limit the transmission of bacterial pathogens to humans through the consumption of contaminated meat. Furthermore, the control of the establishments selling meat based dishes by the competent authorities need to be enhanced particularly in rural establishments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Authors are grateful to the Government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Education Board (REB) for having provided the required funds to carry out this research work.