



## SEASONAL IMPACT ON THE RISK ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE SPATIAL PREVALENCE OF ENTEROVIRUS IN OYSTERS FROM OUALIDIA LAGOON IN MOROCCO

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### ABSTRACT

Enteroviruses are ubiquitous pathogens that are present worldwide and they are able to survive for long periods in a marine environment. They are transmitted through water and food contaminated with stools. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of enteroviruses in oysters collected from Oualidia lagoon, using real-time RT-PCR. To achieve this objective, 624 oysters representing 52 batches were collected and tested for viral contamination using real-time polymerase chain reaction. The results show that 32.69% of the samples tested were positive for enteroviruses. The spatial distribution of the enteroviruses was statistically significant. Moreover, a prominent seasonal variation of enterovirus contamination was observed in this study. The consumption of oysters contaminated with this type of virus presents a major risk to human health, By causing serious illnesses such as gastroenteritis, hepatitis, and poliomyelitis, the presence of enteroviruses in oyster production areas represents a potential health risk.

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