Detection, quantitation, and phylogenetic analysis of Noroviruses in Japanese oysters

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Noroviruses cause many cases of oyster- or clam-associated gastroenteritis in various countries. We collected 191 samples from Japanese oysters intended for raw consumption that had been harvested from the sea in two different areas between December 2001 and February 2002. To detect, quantitate, and phylogenetically analyze the NV genome in purifired concentrates from the stomachs and digestive diverticula of these oysters, we amplified the NV capsid gene by reverse transcription -PCR. Phylogenetic analysis was performed by using the neighbor-joining method. We detected the NV genome in 17 of 191 oysters (9%). Phylogenetic analysis

indicated genogroup I (Norwalk virus type) in 3 of the 17 oysters and genogroup II (Snow mountain virus type) in the other 14. Both genogroups showed wide genetic diversity. To quantify the NV capsid gene in these oysters, we performed real-time PCR using genogroup-specific probes. More than 10² copies of NV genome were detected in 11 of 17 oysters. The results suggested that about 10% of Japanese oysters intended for raw consumption harbored NVs, and more than 50% of those oysters in which NVs were detected had a large amount.

市販生食用カキのノロウイルス汚染状況

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ノロウイルス(NV)による食中毒の主な原因食材である生力キ(生食用カキ,2002年10月~2003年4月採取)209ロットについて、NV汚染状況を調査した.カキは1ロットにつき3個を個別に検査した.リアルタイムPCRでgenogroup別に定量し,カプシド領域の塩基配列を決定した.

同一ロットのカキでも,陽性と陰性のものが混在

していたことから、検査は1ロット中複数個のカキについて行う必要があると考えられた、1,000コピー/個以上の高レベル汚染は12月~2月に見られた、12~3月採取の生食用カキの23/173(13%)からNVが検出され、この時期は生食用カキによる食中毒が多発し、食中毒の発生とカキのNV汚染との関連性が強く示唆された、