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Vancomycin resistance in *Enterococcus faecium* isolated from Danish chicken meat is located on a pVEF4-like plasmid persisting in poultry for 18 years

Helena Leinweber , Sulaiman M.I. Alotaibi ,
Søren Overballe-Petersen , Frank Hansen , Henrik Hasman ,
Valeria Bortolaia , Anette M. Hammerum , Hanne Ingmer

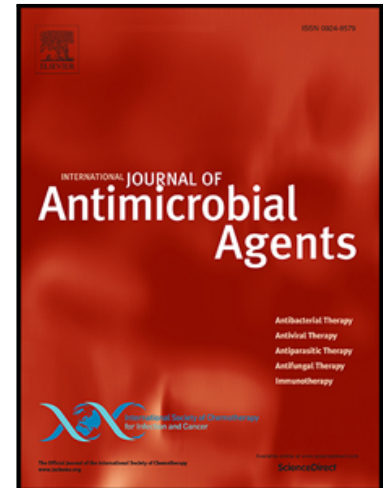
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Highlights

- First report of vancomycin-resistant *E. faecium* in Danish chicken meat since 2010
- Persistence of a pVEF4-like plasmid in VREfm from poultry for more than 18 years
- $\omega/\epsilon/\zeta$ toxin-antitoxin system likely responsible for long term persistence
- Co-transfer of the non-conjugative plasmid pVEF4 with another larger plasmid

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