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Drug Resistant Plasmids and Genes from Fish Pathogenic Bacteria

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Because various chemotherapeutic agents have been used to treat bacterial infections in cultured fish, drug resistant fish pathogenic bacteria have increased. Transferable R plasmids have been detected in drug resistant strains of various fish pathogenic bacteria; *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *A. salmonicida*, *Edwardsiella tarda*, *Enterococcus seriolicida*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Pasteurella piscicida*, and *Vibrio anguillarum*. The spread of R plasmids encoding multiple drug resistance has made chemotherapy of bacterial infections difficult in many fish farms. Chloramphenicol, florfenicol, kanamycin, sulfonamide and tetracycline resistance genes were cloned from the transferable R plasmids of a few strains and their genetic structures were clarified

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The Policy Direction on Controlling the Use of Antibiotics and Steroid products

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Recently, excessive use of antibiotics in both hospitals and clinics is emerging as a pending problem. Further, the abuse of these drugs has become a social problem since adverse reactions such as round-shaped face, cataracts and blindness have occurred in patients receiving prolonged corticosteroids therapy including Dexamethasone, Prednisolone, Triamcinolone and Hydrocortisone.

In consequence, these drugs are classified into prescription drugs which should be used under supervision of physicians because of an increased risk of adverse events associated with the abuse of those drugs.

In July 1997, there was the request by the congress that the government make a countermeasure on the abuse of those drugs in 184th extra session.

According to this, the Korea Food and Drug Administration endeavours to establish 「The Guidelines for the Use of Antibiotics and Steroids」 in the second half of 1998. The government will try to develop preventive policies which aim at a high level of protection patients from adverse reactions as well as which guide correct use by the specialists in medical area and through public information about the adverse reactions.