Policies related to vCJD and the potential risk of human to human transmission are based on three main factors: an unknown number of individuals who might be infected with the BSE agent; presence of the pathological prion protein in many peripheral tissues from vCJD terminal patients and. There is increasing concern about the troubling possibility that blood or blood products, vaccines and other pharmaceutical products could spread the agent of variant CJD (vCJD) worldwide, especially in countries where BSE has not yet been reported. Bovine derived materials involved in the production of vaccines and other pharmaceutical products could represent a way of potential transmission of the disease. They consumed the same ruminant protein that gave rise to the BSE epidemic in cattle, but there has been no evidence of an epidemic in these species. Experimental investigations have shown pigs to be susceptible to infection by multiple parenteral challenge, but resistant to oral exposure with BSE-infected cattle brain. Current but incomplete evidence suggests that they are also resistant to oral challenge with sheep scrapie. Risk for human exposure to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)-inducing agent was estimated in a nonhuman primate model. To determine attack rates, incubation times, and molecular signatures, we orally exposed 18 macaques to 1 high dose of brain material from cattle with BSE. Foodborne Transmission of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy to Nonhuman Primates. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or "mad cow disease," is a recent example of the human health risk when TSEs occur in animals that enter the human food supply. The origin of BSE, which was first identified in cattle in 1986, is subject to speculation. Case numbers sharply declined after feeding of any ruminant tissue or ruminant by-product to cattle was prohibited. Despite advancements in technology and creation of other prion assays, most of the unknowns surrounding CWD and other prion diseases remain because of testing limitations. Although ELISA and IHC are not validated food safety tests and therefore cannot guarantee that an animal is completely free of CWD prions, they are the best available options to reduce human exposure.