

Communicable Disease Report

Influenza surveillance

The indices of influenza activity in England and Wales continue to be elevated above the levels usually seen in winters of low influenza activity, but have not increased further and are still a long way short of the levels seen in last year's epidemic. The RCGP consultation rate for 'epidemic influenza' rose from 17 (per 100,000 population) in week 91/04 to 37 in 91/05, 32 in 91/06 and 40 (provisional) in 91/07. Influenza B infections continue to be reported in considerable numbers, and a single isolate of influenza A virus, of the H₁N₁ subtype, has been reported in a middle-aged man from the West Midlands and confirmed by the Virus Reference Laboratory.

Importation of multiresistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*

Strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* imported with patients admitted from other countries and possessing the ability to spread in hospitals, may cause problems in intensive therapy or other specialised units. These problems may be compounded when strains are multi- or methicillin-resistant.

Epidemic methicillin-resistant strains of *S. aureus* are widespread in the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Australia and the Middle East. Recently such strains have spread in Spain. Patients from any of these areas may be infected or colonised with epidemic multiresistant strains of *S. aureus*.

Identification of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*

In recent years there have been some technical problems with rapid identification and tests for toxigenicity of possible *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* isolates. The diphtheria laboratory in the Division of Hospital Infection at Colindale suggests that colleagues set up a test for pyrazinamidase production in addition to an Elek plate. As *C. diphtheriae*, *C. ulcerans* and *C. pseudotuberculosis* are all pyrazinamidase negative, any organism that is negative should be investigated further.

Diagnostic parasitology courses

A one week course on the laboratory diagnosis of parasites will be held at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine from 1-5 July 1991. There will also be a three day course on the laboratory diagnosis of malaria, from 15-17 July 1991. For further information contact J E Williams, Department of Medical Parasitology (telephone 071 927 2318).

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Hepatitis:

weeks 91/05-08

Miscellaneous viruses

weeks 91/05-08

Sexually transmitted diseases:

weeks 91/05-08

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:

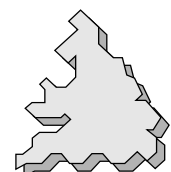
weeks 91/05-08

Imported infections:

weeks 91/05-08

Opportunist infections:

weeks 91/05-08



Hepatitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/05-08

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total for weeks 91/05-08	Cumulative total 1991
	91/05	91/06	91/07	91/08		
Hepatitis A (IgM)	228	131	155	186	700	1359
HBsAg total	66	33	23	46	168	301
acute hepatitis B	20	11	7	14	52	96
other	46	22	16	32	116	205

Hepatitis A

Increased numbers of reports continue to be received from all regions.

Outbreaks: family outbreaks have been reported from Wales (2) and the following Regions: Northern (5), Yorkshire (3), Trent (5), E Anglia (1), NW Thames (1), SE Thames (3), SW Thames (1), Oxford (1), S Western (1), W Midlands (4) and Mersey (1).

Corby community outbreak: 48 further reports received, 19 males, 27 females, 2 sex not stated; ages ranged from 4-56

years; cumulative total 247.

Small numbers of additional reports have been received from the Gloucester (5), Reading (4), Hartlepool (9) and Nuneaton (4) community outbreaks, and a community outbreak affecting children and young adults (8 males, 5 females) has been reported from Durham.

A cluster of cases in nurses, who looked after a hospitalised child who had a gastrostomy and subclinical hepatitis A infection, has also been reported.

Laboratory reports	Age (years)					Not stated	Total
	<1	1-14	15-44	45-64	≥65		
Hepatitis A (IgM)	—	220	410	37	5	28	700
HBsAg total	1 *	2	121	22	5	17	168
acute hepatitis B	—	—	37	10	2	3	52
other	1 *	2	84	12	3	14	116

* cord blood

Hepatitis B

Fifty-two reports of acute hepatitis B were received: 38 male, 13 female, 1 sex not stated. Risk factor information was recorded for 34: homosexual contact 8; heterosexual

contact 4 (1 male, 3 female); IVDU 4 (3 male, 1 female); surgery and/or blood transfusion 1 male; travel abroad 3; other 2; no recognisable risk 12.

Miscellaneous viruses, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/05-08

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total for weeks 91/05-08	Cumulative total 1991
	91/05	91/06	91/07	91/08		
Cytomegalovirus	28	15	22	26	91	193
Molluscum contagiosum	2	1	—	2	5	5
Varicella zoster	5	3	4	9	21	32
HTLV-1	—	1	1	2	4	4

Cytomegalovirus: 2 regions reported more than 9 cases: E Anglia (15) and W Midlands (20).

Ages: 11 babies aged 1-11 months; 4 children aged 1-4 years; 2, 5-9 years; 2, 10-14 years; 44 patients aged 15-44 years; 18, 45-64 years; 6, 65 years or more; 4, age not stated. 37 patients had organ transplants; 7 had leukaemia/lymphoma; 8 were known to be HIV antibody positive and 1 infant had had blood transfusions; 7 patients had a glandular fever-like illness and 5 had hepatitis; 7 children had respiratory tract infections.

EB virus: M 12y with fever after liver transplant; M 20y with lymphadenopathy and hepatosplenomegaly developed raised intracranial pressure and loss of vision; M 37y presented with cerebellar syndrome.

Molluscum contagiosum: all adults.

Herpes simplex: one neonate with disseminated infection

was reported (lung isolate). Three patients (F 5m, M 11y and M 23y) had encephalitis.

Varicella zoster: 2 adults (M 26y and M 33y) with chickenpox pneumonitis were reported. F 35y with chickenpox, complicated by group A streptococcal bacteraemia, died. F 22y developed transverse myelitis and F 27y had encephalitis after recent attacks of chickenpox. M 62y had Ramsay Hunt syndrome.

HTLV-1: West Indian F 52y with bilateral cranial nerve palsies, hypercalcaemia and concurrent strongyloides infestation was on corticosteroids; F 59y with lymphoma; West Indian F 65y with long standing paraparesis; F 67y with T-cell lymphocytosis.

Papillomavirus 1.

Polyomavirus 1: M 26y after bone marrow transplant.

Sexually transmitted diseases, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/05-08

Laboratory reports	Male	Female	Not stated	Total for weeks 91/05-08	Cumulative total 1991
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>					
β-lactamase producing	5	2	–	7	12
other penicillin-resistant strains	5	–	–	5	11
extra genital isolates (penicillin sensitive)	15	3	–	18	42
Ophthalmia neonatorum (<6 weeks)					
gonococcal	–	–	–	–	1
chlamydia	20	6	1	27	70
Chlamydia trachomatis	791	1509	27	2327	4512
Herpes simplex	269	444	8	721	1529

Comment

Neisseria gonorrhoeae, β-lactamase producing strains. Country of infection: UK 1; Middle East, Zambia one each. Penicillin sensitive extra-genital isolates: 10 from throat (9 male, including 1 rectum also, and 1 female, rectum also) and 8 from rectum (6 male and 2 female).

During 1990, 271 reports of patients with β-lactamase producing strains of *N. gonorrhoeae* were received, compared with 246 reports in 1989. This is the first time since 1984 that the annual total has exceeded the previous year's total. Males continue to account for the majority of patients (69%), with no significant trend in the sex ratio of patients between 1980 and 1989 (mean 64% males). The modal age group for female patients in 1990 was 20-24 years and that for males was 25-34 years. Infection was

acquired abroad in 96 cases (35%), of whom 90 were male: Far East 39, Africa 37, Europe 7, Caribbean 7, S America 3, Australia 1, India 1, USA 1. One hundred and five cases (39%) acquired their infection in the British Isles, including 29 whose consorts were infected abroad.

Chlamydia trachomatis, genital tract infections: 2292 (777 male and 1488 female).

Eye infections: 27 babies aged less than 6 weeks; 2 children aged 6 weeks or more; 19 adults and 4 patients, age not stated.

3 women with pelvic inflammatory disease and 2 with infertility.

LGV (lymphogranuloma venereum) 1: M 35y.

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/05-08

Laboratory reports	No. of reports received		Age		Total for weeks 91/05-08	Cumulative total 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	<1m	≥65y		
<i>Bacteroides</i> sp	60	–	1	32	60	127
<i>Clostridium</i> sp	25	1	–	9	26	57
Anaerobic cocci	6	–	–	2	6	25
<i>Acinetobacter</i> sp	16	–	1	6	16	40
<i>Aeromonas</i> sp	2	–	–	2	2	4
<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp	75	–	–	36	75	188
<i>Serratia</i> sp	13	–	–	4	13	26

Bacteraemia

***Bacteroides* sp:** *B. buccae* 2; *B. fragilis* 37; *B. oralis* 3; *B. ovatus* 2; *B. ureolyticus* 2.

***Fusobacterium* sp 3:** *F. necrophorum*, M 15y with necrobacillosis had *B. buccae* also. *F. nucleatum*, preterm F 1d (blood isolate, gastric aspirate, placenta).

Fusobacterium sp, F 21y.

***Clostridium* sp:** *C. bifermentans* 1; *C. cadaveris* 1; *C. clostridiiforme* 1; *C. perfringens* 11; *C. ramosum* 3; *C. septicum* 3. *C. sporogenes* 1; *C. tertium* 1.

Laboratory reports	Total bacteraemia	Gastrointestinal tract	Biliary tract (ERCP)	UTI/GU (pregnant)	Ishaemic/pressure sores
<i>Bacteroides</i> sp	60	22	6 (–)	7 (–)	3
<i>Clostridium</i> sp	25	10	2 (–)	2 (1)	–
Anaerobic cocci	6	–	2 (–)	1 (–)	–

***Alcaligenes* sp 2:** M 47y with IV-line, and M 68y.

***Pseudomonas* sp:** *P. aeruginosa* 54; *P. cepacia* 1; *P. fluorescens* 3; *P. maltophilia* 7. 5 patients had biliary tract disease/

surgery including 2 after ERCP.

***Serratia* sp:** *S. liquefaciens* 5; *S. marcescens* 6.

	Total bacteraemia	UTI/GU (pregnant)	Burns	Intravascular lines	Leukaemia/bone marrow suppression (IV-lines)
<i>Acinetobacter sp</i>	16	2 (-)	2	3	2 (2)
<i>Aeromonas sp</i>	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	75	8 (-)	-	8	22 (3)
<i>Serratia sp</i>	13	-	-	2	4 (1)

Meningitis

Clostridium sp: F 60y with cerebral abscess (CSF isolate).

Pseudomonas fluorescens: F 21y (blood isolate).

Unusual infections

Achromobacter xylosoxidans 2: F 14d with haemorrhagic rash and M 58y with urinary catheter (both blood isolates).

Bacillus sp 2: F 71y with carcinomatosis (blood isolate). *B. cereus*, M 63y with wound infection after injuring hand on an industrial saw (wound isolate).

Branhamella catarrhalis: M 10m with chest infection (blood isolate).

Diphtheroids 3: 2 immunocompromised patients and one other, all with IV-lines (blood isolates).

Flavobacterium sp: M 9m with pharyngitis and M 85y with

pneumonia (both blood isolates).

Lactobacillus rhamnosus 2: M 9y after liver transplant and M 58y with oesophageal carcinoma (blood isolates).

Leuconostoc sp: M 36y with leukaemia had coagulase negative staphylococci also (blood isolate).

Neisseria flavescens: F 24y on cytotoxic medication (blood isolate).

Propionibacterium acnes: M 16y with endocarditis (blood isolate).

Providencia stuartii: M 80y (blood isolate).

Imported infections

Borrelia recurrentis (relapsing fever) 1: M 12y with fever and splenomegaly after travel in Zambia.

Dengue 2: F 22y with fever after visit to Far East and F 23y who visited Thailand.

Filaria 4: *Dipetalonema perstans* 2; *Onchocerca volvulus* 2.

Hookworms 19.

Leishmania 5: *L. braziliense* 2 (both skin); *L. infantum* 1

(bone marrow); *leishmania sp* 2 (both skin).

Plasmodium 8: *P. falciparum* 7 (Kenya 1, Nigeria 1, Africa 1); *P. vivax* 1 (Ghana).

Schistosoma 5: *S. haematobium* 1; *S. mansoni* 3 (Kenya 1); *schistosoma sp* 1.

Strongyloides 8 (Africa 1).

Opportunist infections

Actinomycosis 4: *A. israelii* 3; *A. odontolyticus* 1. 2 patients with oro-facial infections and 2 women with IUCDs.

Aspergillus fumigatus 3: M 59y with leukaemia and lung abscess (sputum isolate); M 61y with systemic infection, nasal polyp histology suggestive (blood isolate); M 65y with prosthetic valve endocarditis and endophthalmitis (heart valve isolate).

Candida sp 32 (31 blood isolates): *C. albicans* 21;

C. parapsilosis 6; *C. tropicalis* 3; *candida sp* 2. 13 patients had

IV-lines.

Cryptococcus sp 1: M 38y from Zambia, known to be HIV-1 antibody positive (blood, CSF, isolates).

Pneumocystis carinii 5: 2 males and 1 female known to be HIV-1 antibody positive; Zambian patient with pneumonia; M 67y with lymphoma (all sputum/bronchial washings).

Torulopsis glabrata 1: F 71y with carcinomatosis (ascitic fluid isolate).

From week 91/01 data in CDR will be from England and Wales only, unless otherwise stated.

Weekly numbers are provisional and should not be used to indicate trends