

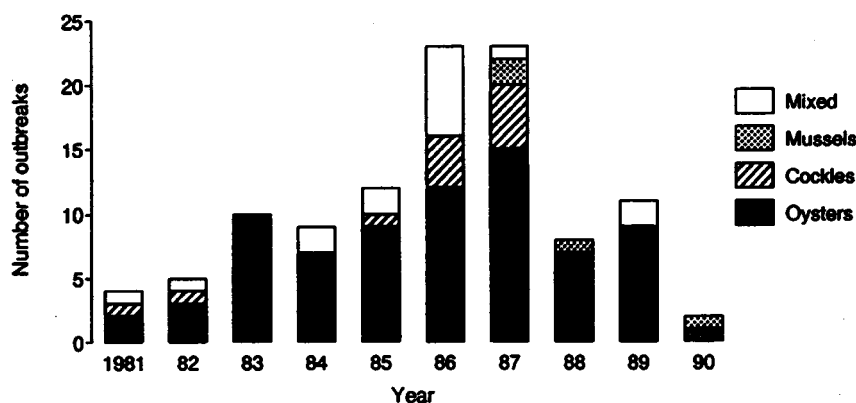
Communicable Disease Report

Outbreaks of food poisoning associated with eating molluscan shellfish: England and Wales 1981-90

A total of 107 outbreaks associated with eating bivalve molluscan shellfish, affecting over 3,500 persons, were recorded by CDSC in the 10 years 1981-90. This compares with 23 outbreaks, affecting just under 1000 persons, in the previous 10 year period. Oysters, which are normally eaten raw after depuration (ie, standing in continuously changing sea water), were the most commonly recorded shellfish (75 outbreaks), followed by cockles (12 outbreaks) and mussels (4 outbreaks); mixed shellfish were reported in 16 outbreaks.

Two outbreaks were due to bacterial infection (campylobacter 1, shigella 1) and 27 were due to virus infections, including hepatitis (6) and small round structured viruses (21). In 78 outbreaks the agent causing illness was unknown. However, in many of these the symptoms and incubation period were compatible with a virus gastroenteritis.

Outbreaks due to molluscan shellfish



Three outbreaks in which shellfish was the suspected vehicle of infection have been reported so far this year. Two were associated with eating oysters and one with mixed seafood including cockles and mussels.

Respiratory tract infections: British Society for Microbial Technology

The sixth annual scientific meeting of the British Society for Microbial Technology will be held on 15 May at the Central Public Health Laboratory, 61 Colindale Avenue, Colindale, London NW9. The programme is devoted to respiratory tract infections and includes sessions on epidemiology, rapid diagnostic methods, legionnaires' disease, antibiotic susceptibility, respiratory tract infections in the immunocompromised and cost analysis of laboratory procedures.

Further information is available from Val Bevan, Department of Microbiology, Hope Hospital, Eccles Old Road, Salford M6 8HD (telephone 061 789 7373, ext 5031).

Hepatitis:
weeks 91/09 - 12

Miscellaneous viruses
weeks 91/09 - 12

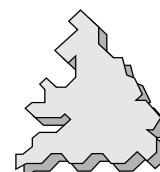
Sexually transmitted diseases:
weeks 91/09 - 12

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:
weeks 91/09 - 12

Imported infections:
weeks 91/09 - 12

Opportunist infections:
weeks 91/09 - 12

Notice



Hepatitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/09 - 12

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total for weeks 91/09-12	Cumulative total 1991
	91/09	91/10	91/11	91/12		
Hepatitis A (IgM)	206	137	152	127	622	1981
HBsAg total	46	42	27	27	142	443
acute hepatitis B	13	5	9	7	34	130
other	33	37	18	20	108	313

Hepatitis A

Two regions reported more than 10% cases: Yorkshire 23% and N Western 19%.

Thirty-one infections were contracted abroad: Indian subcontinent 12; Far East 5; Mediterranean countries 4; Africa 4; Brazil, Mexico, Middle East, Romania, USA, West Indies one each.

Family outbreaks were reported from Wales (1) and the following regions: Northern (1), Yorkshire (3), Trent (1), SE Thames (5), SW Thames (1), S Western (1) and N Western (5).

Community outbreaks: 30 more cases, aged 4-58 years, were reported in the Corby outbreak; cumulative total 78 cases. Fifteen cases, aged 11-56 years, were reported from Keighley.

Additional reports were also received of cases in community outbreaks in Gloucester (4), Hartlepool (8), Durham (4) and Liverpool (2).

Two staff of a nursery and one of a hospital ward were reported.

Laboratory reports	Age (years)					Not stated	Total
	<1	1-14	15-44	45-64	≥65		
Hepatitis A (IgM)	1	183	381	30	8	19	622
HBsAg total	1	9	90	28	3	11	142
acute hepatitis B	—	2	21	9	—	2	34
other	1	7	69	19	3	9	108

Hepatitis B

Thirty-four reports of acute hepatitis B were received: 26 male, 7 female and one sex not stated. Risk factor information was recorded for 21: homosexual contact 6;

heterosexual contact 4; IVDU 1; surgery/blood transfusion 2; travel abroad 8.

Miscellaneous viruses, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/09 - 12

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total for weeks 91/09-12	Cumulative total 1991
	91/09	91/10	91/11	91/12		
Cytomegalovirus	14	20	19	34	87	280
Molluscum contagiosum	—	—	2	1	3	8
Varicella zoster	5	4	4	5	18	50
HTLV-1	—	—	—	—	—	4

Cytomegalovirus: 2 regions reported more than 10% of total: NW Thames (26 cases) and Oxford (10).

Ages: 14 babies aged less than 1 year, including 4 neonates; 3 children aged 1-4 years; 2, 5-9 years; 2, 10-14 years; 29 patients aged 15-44 years; 22, 45-64 years; 5, 65 years or more; 10, age not stated. 27 patients had organ transplants; 3 had leukaemia/lymphoma; 6 were known to be HIV-1 antibody positive and 1 infant had had blood transfusions; 2 patients had a glandular fever-like illness and 4 had hepatitis; 12 patients had respiratory tract infections.

EB virus: M 40y with glandular fever and spontaneous rupture of the spleen.

Molluscum contagiosum: one child and 2 adults.

Herpes simplex: Preterm female neonate born after antepartum haemorrhage (placenta). Three patients presented with encephalitis: M 59y (brain isolate); M 65y and M 79y (serol).

Varicella zoster: M 23y with chickenpox pneumonitis had previous lung transplant (bronchial isolate). M 30y with chickenpox and pneumonia. F 7y and M 46y with chickenpox and encephalitis. F 62y and M 75y with Ramsay-Hunt syndrome.

Papovavirus: M 7y after bone marrow transplant (urine microscopy)

Polyomavirus 1: M 15y after bone marrow transplant (urine microscopy).

Sexually transmitted diseases, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/09 - 12

Laboratory reports	Male	Female	Not stated	Total for weeks 91/09-12	Cumulative total 1991
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>					
β-lactamase producing	10	4	–	14	26
other penicillin-resistant strains	5	7	–	12	23
extra genital isolates (penicillin sensitive)	14	14	–	28	70
<i>Ophthalmia neonatorum</i> (<6 weeks)					
gonococcal	2	2	–	4	5
chlamydia	12	19	2	33	103
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	753	1470	61	2284	6824
Herpes simplex	253	456	15	724	2259

Comment

***Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, β-lactamase producing strains.** Country of infection: UK, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Thailand, Zimbabwe one each.

Other penicillin-resistant strains: country of infection: UK 1.

Spectinomycin-resistant strains: 2.

Extra-genital isolates: 12 from throat (5 male) and 15 from rectum (9 male). F 37y with septic arthritis (joint isolate).

***Chlamydia trachomatis*, genital tract infections:** 2239 (747 male and 1432 female).

Eye infections: 33 babies aged less than 6 weeks; 2 children aged 6 weeks or more; 22 adults and 3 patients, age not stated.

4 women with pelvic inflammatory disease and 5 with infertility.

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/09 - 12

Laboratory reports	No. of reports received		Age		Total for weeks 91/09-12	Cumulative total 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	<1m	≥65y		
<i>Bacteroides</i> sp	59	1	1	30	60	187
<i>Clostridium</i> sp	25	–	–	15	25	82
Anaerobic cocci	16	–	1	8	16	41
<i>Acinetobacter</i> sp	17	–	1	6	17	57
<i>Aeromonas</i> sp	2	–	–	1	2	6
<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp	90	1	3	39	91	279
<i>Serratia</i> sp	12	–	1	8	12	38

Bacteraemia

***Bacteroides* sp:** *B. asaccharolyticus* 1; *B. bivius* 1; *B. capillosus* 1; *B. eggerthii* 1; *B. fragilis* 39; *B. melaninogenicus* 2; *B. splanchnicus* 1; *B. thetaiotaomicron* 3; *B. ureolyticus* 1; *B. vulgatus* 1. *B. melaninogenicus*, F 61y with pneumonia (lung isolate). *B. ureolyticus*, female with leukaemia and oral ulceration (blood isolate).

***Fusobacterium* sp:** bacteraemia 3: *F. necrophorum*, M 20y

with chest infection and immunosuppressed M 63y. *F. varium*, F 71y with diarrhoea and pressure sore.

***Clostridium* sp:** *C. cadaveris* 1; *C. paraputrificum* 3; *C. perfringens* 17; *C. septicum* 2. *C. perfringens*, F 80y had gastrointestinal disease and osteomyelitis.

Also reported: *C. paraputrificum*, F 79y (pleural aspirate).

Laboratory reports	Total bacteraemia	Gastrointestinal tract	Biliary tract (ERCP)	UTI/GU (pregnant)	Ischaemic/pressure sores
<i>Bacteroides</i> sp	59	23	3 (–)	7 (1)	6
<i>Clostridium</i> sp	25	8	2 (–)	–	1
Anaerobic cocci	16	3	1 (–)	5 (1)	–

Anaerobic cocci: *Peptostreptococcus* sp, F 63y with orbital cellulitis (blood isolate).

***Acinetobacter* sp:** F 65y with biliary tract infection had ERCP (blood, pleural aspirate).

***Aeromonas hydrophila*:** M 62y with biliary tract disease (blood isolate).

***Pseudomonas* sp:** *P. acidovorans*, 1; *P. aeruginosa* 67; *P. cepacia* 2; *P. fluorescens* 3; *P. maltophilia* 6. 5 patients had biliary tract disease (ERCP 2).

***Serratia* sp:** *S. liquefaciens* 5; *S. marcescens* 7. *S. liquefaciens*, M 69y with biliary tract disease (blood isolate).

	Total bacteraemia	UTI/GU (pregnant)	Burns	Intravascular lines	Leukaemia/bone marrow suppression (IV-lines)
<i>Acinetobacter</i> sp	17	–	1	9	5 (3)
<i>Aeromonas</i> sp	2	–	–	1	–
<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp	90	14 (–)	–	15	16 (3)
<i>Serratia</i> sp	12	2 (–)	–	2	1 (1)

Meningitis

B. fragilis: M 1y with otitis media (CSF isolate).

P. aeruginosa: M 28y with spina bifida (CSF isolate).

Unusual infections

Aerococcus viridans: F 57y (blood isolate).

***Bacillus* sp 5**: *B. cereus*, M 53y on haemodialysis also had *Klebsiella aerogenes* (blood isolates); 3 adults had infected traumatic wounds (wound isolates). *B. circulans*, M 74y after gastrointestinal surgery (blood isolate).

Capnocytophaga ochracea: M 53y with stomatitis had leukaemia (mouth isolate).

Eikenella corrodens: M 32y with balanitis (urethral

discharge).

Kingella kingae: F 11m with septic arthritis (joint isolate).

Leptotrichia buccalis: neutropenic M 25y with fever (blood isolate).

***Moraxella* sp**: F 39y with leukaemia had IV-line (blood isolate).

Propionibacterium acnes: immunosuppressed M 61y on chemotherapy (blood isolate).

Imported infections

***Diphyllobothrium latum* 1** (Thailand).

Hookworms 9.

***Leishmania* sp 1**.

***Plasmodium* sp 8**: *P. falciparum* 3 (Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe). *P. malariae* 1 (Nigeria). *P. vivax* 3 (India, Pakistan, Sudan).

Ross River fever: F 28y with polyarthritis, but no rash or fever, developed symptoms after visiting family in New South Wales; had many mosquito bites. There was a known case of RRF in this family.

***Schistosoma mansoni* 6** (Zambia 2, Uganda 1).

***Strongyloides* 5** (Bangladesh, Nigeria, Uganda one each).

Opportunist infections

Actinomycosis 3: *A. israelii* 3. Two women with IUCDs and F 72y with oro-facial infection.

***Aspergillus* sp 5**: *A. fumigatus*, F 48y with malignant pleural effusion (pleural aspirate). *A. niger*, immunosuppressed female with chest infection (blood isolate). *Aspergillus* sp 3: F 14y with cystic fibrosis; F 78y with pulmonary infection; male with leukaemia (all serological diagnoses).

***Candida* sp 24** (20 blood isolates): *C. albicans* 22; *C. parapsilosis* 1; *C. tropicalis* 1. 6 patients had IV/CVP-lines; 5 were immunocompromised; F 51y with biliary tract infection had metastatic fungal abscesses. *C. albicans*,

preterm F 26d with meningitis (CSF isolate).

***Cryptococcus neoformans* 1**: M 33y with meningitis (blood isolate).

***Nocardia* sp 2**: F 78y with cutaneous lesions (blood and skin isolates). *N. asteroides*, female with nocardia endophthalmitis after cataract surgery (isolates from anterior chamber, lens capsule and intra-ocular lens).

***Pneumocystis carinii* 12** (all isolates from sputum/bronchial washings); 9 HIV-1 antibody positive men; M 43y with leukaemia and pneumonitis.

***Torulopsis glabrata* 2**.

BSSI Chlamydia symposium

The British Society for the Study of Infection is holding a symposium at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 234-242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow on Friday 19 April 1991.

Further information is available from Dr D Carrington, Department of Microbiology, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Glasgow G4 0SF (telephone 041 552 3999 or Fax 041 552 1524).

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