

## Communicable Disease Report

### Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP)

Incidents of diarrhoeal illness occurring between 30 minutes and a few hours after eating shellfish, particularly blue mussels and scallops, have been documented in Japan, USA, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, France and Spain since 1960. Symptoms include diarrhoea, abdominal pain, generalised weakness, nausea and vomiting. Some patients have had fever, headache, dizziness, intense thirst, tachycardia, hypotension and hypersalivation. To date, no such incidents are known to have been recorded in the United Kingdom. The toxins responsible for this syndrome are produced by certain marine algae and are resistant to boiling.

The PHLS Food Hygiene Laboratory and CDSC would like to receive early information on any suspected cases. Dr R J Gilbert (081 200 4400 ext 4117) or Anne Scoging (ext 4539) in the Food Hygiene Laboratory will be happy to discuss diagnostic tests if required.

### Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP)

Monitoring of shellfish for PSP toxin continues. No human cases have been reported to CDSC following the notice published on 31 May 1991 (Communicable Disease Report 1991; 1:97).

### Argentinian corned beef

The Department of Health has issued a hazard warning notice about 12oz cans of Argentinian corned beef following the discovery of mechanical damage which has left holes covered by an undamaged label. The fault could affect safety of the food but human illness has not been reported so far.

More than one brand may be involved and the public are advised not to eat corned beef from cans bearing the words 'Produce of Argentina. INDUSTRIA ARGENTINA. EST 13, ESTAB No 13 or ESTAB 13' on the label or base of the can. Suspect cans should be returned to retail outlets.

### Respiratory illness at a conference in Spain

A possible outbreak of respiratory illness in delegates to a biostatistics conference at a hotel near Valencia, Spain in April 1991 was reported in the CDR of 10 May 1991 (Communicable Disease Report 1991; 1:83). No evidence of a significant outbreak in this group subsequently came to light, and, in particular, there was no evidence to implicate legionella infection.

### Training in communicable disease control

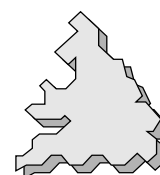
The Universities of Liverpool and Manchester, in conjunction with the Mersey and North Western Regional Health Authorities, are holding a day-release modular course in Communicable Disease Control from October 1991 - June 1992. Further information is available from: Prof C A Hart, Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX (telephone 051 706 4381) or Prof S P B Donnan, Department of Public health and Epidemiology, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PT (telephone 061 275 5195).

**Salmonella infections:**  
weeks 91/20 - 23

**Other gastrointestinal tract infections:**  
weeks 91/20 - 23

**Gastrointestinal virus infections:**  
weeks 91/20 - 23

**Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:**  
weeks 91/20 - 23



## Salmonella infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/20 – 23

Serotype	Reports to CDSC					Reports from DEP
	91/20	91/21	91/22	91/23	Total	Total
<i>S. enteritidis</i> (PT4)	162(131) *	188 (136)*	79 (62)*	198 (154) *	627 (483) *	800 (672)*
<i>S. typhimurium</i>	52	88	22	75	237	281
<i>S. virchow</i>	5	6	2	4	17	10
<i>S. dublin</i>	7	–	3	7	17	13
<i>S. newport</i>	2	3	6	4	15	21
<i>S. heidelberg</i>	2	–	4	8	14	9
Other serotypes	22	22	18	23	85	192
Total	252	307	134	319	1012	1326

\* *S. enteritidis* PT4

Less than 10 laboratory reports of the following serotypes were received by CDSC during this period:

- 8: *S. bredeney*, *S. stanley*.  
 7: *S. infantis*  
 6: *S. agona*  
 4: *S. braenderup*, *S. kedougou*, *S. saint-paul*.  
 3: *S. bovis - morbificans*, *S. hadar*, *S. montevideo*, *S. poona*, *S. senftenberg*.  
 2: *S. emek*, *S. gold-coast*, *S. haifa*, *S. havana*, *S. java*.  
 1: *S. abaetetuba*, *S. berta*, *S. blockley*, *S. cerro*, *S. chester*, *S. coeln*, *S. give*, *S. indiana*, *S. javiana*, *S. kiambu*, *S. livingstone*, *S. manhattan*, *S. meleagridis*, *S. muenchen*, *S. neukoelln*, *S. san-diego*, *S. schwarzengrund*, *S. thompson*, *S. weltevreden*.

### Comment

**Salmonella dublin:** 26 persons, served by the same milk round, had D&V in April after drinking unpasteurised milk from a farm (14 persons, milk samples and 3 cows were positive).

**S. enteritidis PT 4:** 5/60 persons had diarrhoea after a social function at a village hall; the food, which included chicken in

mushroom sauce, was prepared in a number of different homes and brought to the hall for the meal (3/5 persons were positive). **PT 8:** at least 16 persons were ill after eating salads purchased from the salad bar at a local supermarket in early May (11 persons were positive).

**S. typhimurium DT 12:** a number of persons in the community were ill after eating sliced cooked meats, particularly ham, bought from a market stall (8 persons were positive). **DT 193:** 16/77 people attending a wedding reception had D&V 12 - 120 hours later; the buffet meal was prepared in a domestic kitchen (6 persons were positive).

**Clostridium perfringens:** 14/19 people who ate roast beef at a hotel had diarrhoea and abdominal pain about 13 hours later; the beef was cooled at room temperature for 3 hours after roasting then refrigerated for 5 days before use (6/7 persons and roast beef were positive). 22/39 residents at an old peoples home were ill approximately 12 hours after a meal including either fish pie or chicken pie (8/8 persons were positive; toxin detected in 6/8 faecal samples).

## Food poisoning notifications from OPCS

	Number of notifications				Total notifications 91/20–23	Cumulative total 1991
	91/20	91/21	91/22	91/23		
Formally notified §	550	666	492	795	2503	10877
Otherwise ascertained §	268	359	291	457	1375	5667

§ provisional

## Other gastrointestinal tract infections: weeks 91/20 – 23

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/20–23 (acquired abroad)	Cumulative total 1991
	91/20	91/21	91/22	91/23		
<i>Campylobacter</i>	561	670	372	1192	2795 (210)	10133
<i>Shigella</i>	313	190	90	302	895 (112)	3392
Enteropathogenic <i>E. coli</i> (children <3 years)	18	7	11	10	46 (–)	249
<i>Aeromonas</i>	4	1	1	1	7 (2)	67
<i>Plesiomonas</i>	1	2	1	(–)	4 (2)	24
<i>Vibrio</i>	1	1	–	4	6 (6)	18
<i>Clostridium difficile</i>	9	14	32	19	74 (1)	411
<i>Yersinia</i>	3	8	9	7	27 (3)	162

**Comment**

**Campylobacter:** 2 regions reported more than 10% cases: Yorkshire (280 cases) and Wales (305).

55 outbreaks were reported: 53 family outbreaks, one in a school and one after a wedding reception.

**Shigella:** *S. boydii* 10 (10 abroad); *S. dysenteriae* 4 (2 abroad); *S. flexneri* 41 (28 abroad); *S. sonnei* 840 (72 abroad).

Community outbreaks are continuing in S Western, Yorkshire and N Western regions. Three nursery outbreaks and 28 family outbreaks were reported.

**Aeromonas:** *A. hydrophila* 7 (2 abroad).

**Plesiomonas shigelloides:** 4 (2 abroad).

**Vibrios:** *V. cholerae non 01* 4 (4 abroad); *V. parahaemolyticus* 2 (2 abroad).

**Clostridium difficile:** 5 regions reported more than 10% cases: Yorkshire (13 cases), N W Thames (10), N E Thames (8), Wessex (12) and Mersey (9).

**Yersinia:** *Y. enterocolitica* 25 (3 abroad); *Yersinia sp 2*.

**Cryptosporidium:** 2 regions reported more than 10% cases: Wessex (53 reports) and N Western (72). Twelve family outbreaks were reported.

**Giardia:** 1 region reported 10% cases: Yorkshire (38 reports). Ten family outbreaks were reported.

**Taenia saginata:** 3 (Turkey 1; USA 1).

**Trichostrongylus:** 3 (new immigrant 1).

**Trichuris:** 31 (Bangladesh 5; Goa 1; Cameroun 1; Malawi 1; Somalia 1; Tanzania 1 and new immigrants 8).

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/20-23 (acquired abroad)	Cumulative total 1991
	91/20	91/21	91/22	91/23		
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	159	137	68	152	516 (21)	2348
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	6	42	8	4	60 (36)	443
<i>Giardia</i>	89	123	66	100	378 (100)	2296
<i>Blastocystis hominis</i>	-	7	-	-	7 (-)	63
<i>Dientamoeba fragilis</i>	-	4	-	-	4 (-)	25

**Typhoid and paratyphoid, England and Wales: laboratory reports week 91/20 - 23**

**S. typhi:** 5 cases aged 10 - 43 years were reported; 3 were from the Indian subcontinent, one from South America; one who apparently acquired infection in the UK was a refugee who arrived from Somalia six months previously.

One excreter (an adult female) and one carrier (M 45y) were reported.

**S. paratyphi A:** 5 cases aged 8 - 58 years were reported; all from the Indian subcontinent. Three excreters were reported (M 7y and F 9y from the same family and M 30y).

**S. paratyphi B:** one excreter (F 88y).

Notifications: 7 cases of typhoid and 5 of paratyphoid fever were statutorily notified (weeks 91/20 - 23).

**Gastrointestinal virus infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/20 - 23**

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/20-23	Cumulative total 1991
	91/20	91/21	91/22	91/23		
Adenovirus (EM faeces)	24	28	15	26	93	584
Adenovirus type 40/41	1	4	2	-	7	42
Astrovirus	1	2	1	1	5	171
Calicivirus	2	1	1	1	5	53
Rotavirus	275	228	124	271	898	10174
SRSV	19	13	20	6	58	355

**Adenovirus (EM faeces):** 3 regions reported more than 10% cases: Trent (10 cases), NW Thames (12) and SE Thames (14).

**Adenovirus 40/41:** 5 cases were reported by N Western region.

**Rotavirus:** 2 regions reported more than 10% cases: NE Thames (118 cases) and Wales (117).

One hospital outbreak and ten family outbreaks were reported.

**SRSV:** 3 regions reported more than 10% cases: Trent (8), S Western (11) and W Midlands (8).

Nine outbreaks were reported: 3 in hospitals, 3 in nursing homes, 1 in an old peoples home, 1 in a school and 1 among employees of a supermarket.

**Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: weeks 91/20 - 23**

Laboratory reports	No. of reports received		Age		Total received	Cumulative total 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	<1m	≥65y		
<i>Citrobacter sp</i>	18	—	1	9	18	82
<i>Enterobacter sp</i>	85	—	3	34	85	376
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	586	7	15	355	593	3238
<i>Klebsiella sp</i>	127	—	1	66	127	684
<i>Proteus sp</i>	88	—	—	57	88	569
<i>Salmonella sp</i>	13	1	—	5	14	88

**Bacteraemia**

**Citrobacter sp:** *C. freundii* 11; *C. koseri* 6. *C. koseri*, F 2y with osteomyelitis.

**Enterobacter sp:** *E. aerogenes* 8; *E. agglomerans* 8; *E. amnigenus* 1; *E. cloacae* 59; *E. sakazakii* 3. *E. cloacae*, M 13y had osteomyelitis; F 67y had septic arthritis and F 18y had burns.

**Escherichia coli:** F 74y and F 76y with septic arthritis.

**Klebsiella sp:** *K. aerogenes* 37; *K. oxytoca* 26; *K. ozaenae* 1; *K. pneumoniae* 42.

**Proteus sp:** *P. mirabilis* 58; *P. morgani* 15; *P. vulgaris* 2.

**Salmonella sp:** *S. enteritidis* 10 (PT 4, 5): F 7m, cot death; 6 patients aged 10 months - 91 years with gastrointestinal symptoms and/or faecal isolate; HIV-1 antibody positive M 37y (blood only); F 59y with disseminated malignant melanoma (blood only) and F 98y with fever after hysterectomy (blood only). *S. stanley*, F 24y with uterine infection after incomplete abortion (blood only). *S. typhimurium* 2: F 63y and M 76y with gastrointestinal symptoms.

Also reported: *S. infantis*, F 9y (urine only). *S. typhimurium*, F 1m with septic arthritis (joint and faeces isolates).

Laboratory reports	Total bacteraemia	UTI/GU surgery (pregnant)	Biliary tract disease (ERCP)	Intravascular lines	Leukaemia/bone marrow suppression (with IV-lines)
<i>Citrobacter sp</i>	18	8 (1)	1 (-)	1	2 (-)
<i>Enterobacter sp</i>	85	9 (-)	7 (1)	19	19 (6)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	586	246 (11)	62 (2)	9	60 (6)
<i>Klebsiella sp</i>	127	22 (-)	23 (1)	7	21 (2)
<i>Proteus sp</i>	88	49 (4)	1 (-)	1	3 (-)

**Meningitis**

**Escherichia coli:** 2 neonates (blood isolate only, 1); 3 babies aged 1 - 2 months; M 10m with CSF shunt; child 2y after neurosurgery; and F 32y with neoplasm eroding sacrum.

**Proteus sp:** M 49y with chronic ear infection and cerebral

abscess had *Streptococcus avium* also (brain).

**Salmonella enteritidis PT 4:** F 2m (isolates from blood, CSF, faeces and maternal faeces).

**Unusual infections**

**Bacillus cereus:** M 21y with liver abscess (drainage isolate).

**Clostridium difficile:** F 94y after abdominal surgery (wound isolate).

**Campylobacter sp 4:** 3 patients aged 23 - 60 years with gastrointestinal symptoms and F 87y (all blood isolates).

**Diphtheroids 3:** M 28y with leukaemia; M 62y with infected

IV-line and F 86y (all blood isolates).

**Moraxella sp 2:** F 46y after bone marrow transplant, had IV-line and F 85y with suspected meningitis (both blood isolates).

**Shigella flexneri type 3A:** F 7m with diarrhoea (blood 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