

## Communicable Disease Report

### Reye syndrome surveillance

Annual total reports of Reye syndrome have been declining since 1986 (see *Communicable Disease Report* 1990; (45): 3), when public and professional warnings were issued about aspirin use in children under 12 years of age and product warning labelling was introduced. However, a 'classical' case of aspirin-associated Reye syndrome in a child under 12 years old was recently reported to the surveillance scheme, emphasising the continued need for public awareness of this rare but preventable severe childhood illness.

### PHLS *Haemophilus influenzae* regional survey

A survey of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* infections in five English regions and Wales began in September 1990. Two hundred and thirty-two infections due to serotype b strains were reported in the English study regions up to 21 June 1991. The provisional average incidence rate was 16.1 per million total population of all ages (Table).

Table *H. influenzae* type b infections: September 1990 - June 1991

Region	Number of cases	Incidence rate per million* population
E Anglia	42	22.2
Northern	31	10.1
N Western	53	13.1
Oxford	50	21.4
S Western	56	18.2
Total	232	16.1

\* based on 1989 OPCS population estimates

Thirty-six isolates (15.5%) were resistant to ampicillin, three were resistant to ampicillin and chloramphenicol and a further two isolates were resistant to chloramphenicol alone.

Laboratories in the study regions are encouraged to report all cases to one of the two co-ordinating centres. Cases reported to CDSC are checked against those reported directly to the co-ordinators. The co-ordinators are Dr Mary P E Slack, Oxford Public Health Laboratory, Level 6/7 John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU, and Dr A Howard, Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2PW.

### PCR and viral diagnosis

There will be a one day symposium on the application of the polymerase chain reaction to viral diagnosis at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale on Friday 15 November 1991. The registration fee of £30 will include lunch and refreshments.

Further details can be obtained from Dr J P Clewley, Virus Reference Laboratory, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HT. Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

**Virus infections:**  
weeks 91/22 - 25

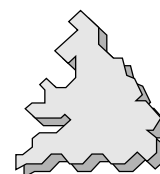
**Selected bacterial infections:**  
weeks 91/22 - 25

**Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:**  
weeks 91/22 - 25

**Unusual infections**

**Animal-associated infections:**  
weeks 91/22 - 25

**Notice**



## Virus infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/22 - 25

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/22-25	Cumulative total for 1991
	91/22	91/23	91/24	91/25		
Coxsackie A	1	—	1	2	4	36
Coxsackie B	5	6	5	12	28	156
Echovirus	6	4	7	8	25	153
Measles	—	2	2	1	5	21
Mumps	1	2	—	1	4	27
Parvovirus B19	18	21	28	18	85	451
Rubella	5	8	5	9	27	158

**Coxsackie A:** A9, 3 and A16, 1.

**A9,** F 17y with meningitis and two patients with pharyngitis.  
**A16,** F 15y with hand, foot and mouth disease in April (skin isolate).

**Coxsackie B:** B1, 1; B2, 1; B3, 15 (Northern 3, S Western 3 and N Western 4); B4, 4; B5, 6; B6, 1.

Ages: 18 children aged less than 15 years; 9 adults and 1 age not stated.

Three patients had meningitis (CSF isolate 2): **B3,** F 23d; **B5,** F 19y and F 31y.

**B1,** F 52y with Bornholm disease.

**Echovirus:** type 1, 1; type 2, 2; type 9, 5; type 17, 1; type 18, 1; type 23, 1; type 26, 1; type 30, 13 (Northern 9, N Western 3).  
Ages: 16 children aged less than 15 years; 7 adults and 2 age not stated.

Eleven patients had meningitis (CSF isolate 6): **type 9:** M 3y, F 4y and M 16y; **type 30, 8:** 3 children aged less than 15 years; 4 patients aged 15-25 years; one age not stated.

The number of enterovirus infections reported remains low, but the recent increase in echovirus **type 30** mentioned in CDR 4 weeks ago (*Communicable Disease Report* 1991; 1:98) is maintained, with most of the recent reports coming from the Northern (24) and N Western (6) regions. The date of illness given is March (7 cases), April (9), May (12), June (1), with 1 or 2 reports each month from November 1990 - February 1991. The age distribution of the cases is: 18, less than 5 years; 5, 5-14 years; 8, 15-44 years and 5, age not stated. Outbreaks of echovirus **type 30** occur every 4-5 years and it is expected that the number of reports will increase this year.

## Notifications to OPCS of measles, mumps and rubella, England and Wales

Notifications					Total 91/22-25	Cumulative total for 1991
	91/22	91/23	91/24	91/25		
Measles	176	190	252	213	831	4747
Mumps	49	67	64	77	257	1494
Rubella	131	149	162	174	616	3665

**Measles:** 4 adults and one patient age not stated.

**Mumps:** one child aged 1 year with meningitis (CSF isolate) and 3 adults.

**Parvovirus (B19):** 3 regions reported 9 or more cases: Yorkshire (9), SW Thames (11) and S Western (13).

Ages: 12 children aged less than 15 years; 67 adults aged 15-44 years; 5 aged more than 45 years and one age not stated.

Fifty patients had rash and 53 had arthritis/arthralgia. One had aplastic crisis.

There is still no evidence of the expected seasonal increase in

reported parvovirus infections.

**Reovirus 2:** M 1y and F 1y with diarrhoea (both faecal isolates).

**Rubella:** only one region reported more than 3 cases (N Western 4).

Ages: 4 children aged less than 15 years; 23 adults aged 15-44 years including 7 women, 3 of whom were pregnant. Five patients presented with arthralgia.

There is no evidence of the usual summer increase in the number of rubella reports received.

## Selected bacterial infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/22 - 25

**Arcanobacterium (Corynebacterium) haemolyticum** 1: M 18y with pharyngitis and rash (throat isolate).

**Bordetella pertussis** 27: 4 regions reported 3 or more cases: Trent (4), NE Thames (6), Wessex (4) and N Western (5).

Ages: 9 babies aged less than 6 months, including one neonate

and 7 others aged 3 months or less; one infant aged 6-11 months; 7 children aged 1-5 years and 6 aged 6-14 years; F 46 years and 3 patients age not stated.

**Chlamydia trachomatis** 2: M 1m (NPA and eye) and M 2m (NPA).

**Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/22 - 25**

Laboratory reports	No of reports received		Age		Total received	Cumulative total for 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	< 1m	≥ 65y		
<b><i>Neisseria meningitidis</i></b>	22	53	1	1	75 (17) *	630
group A	—	—			—	
B	14	31			45 (12) *	
C	6	12			18 (4) *	
W135	—	1			1 (1) *	
ungrouped	2	9			11 (—)	
<b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i></b>	46	37	4	5	83 (4) §	599
type b	18	26			44 (4) §	
<b><i>Listeria monocytogenes</i></b>	6	3	2	4	9	38

\*sulphonamide-resistant

§β-lactamase producing

***Neisseria meningitidis***: 2 regions reported 10% or more cases: Northern (8 cases) and W Midlands (12). Sixteen patients presented with rash. **Group W135**, M 3d (blood and CSF isolates).

17 sulphonamide-resistant strains were reported: **group B**, 12 (Northern, Trent 2, NW Thames, SW Thames 2, Oxford, S Western, W Midlands 3 and Wales); **group C**, 4 (Wessex,

W Midlands, N Western and Wales); **group W135**, 1 (Mersey).

Also reported: **group B**, M 10m with rash (throat isolate only); **group C**, M 3m with rash (throat isolate only) whose brother had meningitis; F 2y with meningitis (throat isolate only). Ungrouped, M 2y (meningeal isolate). F 15y and F 46y had clinical diagnosis only.

**Notifications to OPCS of meningitis and meningococcal infections, England and Wales**

Notifications	91/22	91/23	91/24	91/25	Total 91/22-25	Cumulative total for 1991
Total meningitis	41	42	42	52	177	1427
Meningococcal meningitis	17	28	16	24	85	736
Meningococcal septicaemia	7	1	6	3	17	156

**Age distribution recorded on laboratory reports**

Laboratory reports	Age (years)										Not stated
	<1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	≥25	
<b><i>Neisseria meningitidis</i></b>	23*	14	5	4	1	6	1	7	2	12	—
<b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i></b>	24§	18	12	5	3	2	1	1	—	16	1

\* includes 8 aged ≤ 3 months

§ includes 7 aged ≤ 3 months

***Haemophilus influenzae***: 3 regions reported 10% or more cases: NE Thames (9 cases), SE Thames (8) and W Midlands (12). Two adults with meningitis were reported: F 37y with history of splenectomy and F 65y; F 37y had epiglottitis. M 3y on CAPD had peritonitis (blood, wound, fluid).

Four β-lactamase producing strains, all from young children, were reported (Northern, NE Thames, Trent and Wessex). Three other ampicillin-resistant strains, from 2 children and one adult, were reported (NE Thames, N Western).

Also reported: M 10m and M 1y with acute bone or joint infections (bone isolate 1, joint isolate 1). F 21y with amnionitis aborted at 21 weeks (placenta, fetus, HVS).

***H. parainfluenzae***: M 20 days and M 34y with endocarditis (both blood isolate).

***Listeria monocytogenes***: meningitis: M 14d, M 67y and F 93y (all CSF isolates). Bacteraemia: one neonate; pregnant F 31y; F 37y and M 45y with transplants; F 65y on steroids for sarcoidosis; M 70y with ulcerative colitis.

***H. influenzae*: clinical features recorded on laboratory reports**

Clinical features	Age (years)				Not stated
	≤ 3	4-14	15-64	≥ 65	
Meningitis (blood isolate only)	33 (—)	3 (—)	1 (—)	1 (1)	—
Epiglottitis	6	1	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	1	2	1	—
Septic arthritis/osteomyelitis	2	1	—	—	—
Facial cellulitis	3	—	—	—	—

## Unusual infections

**Achromobacter sp:** female, age not stated, on haemodialysis (blood isolate).

**Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans:** F 67y with endocarditis (blood isolate).

**Aerococcus viridans:** F 31y with endocarditis (blood isolate).

**Branhamella catarrhalis:** F 89y (blood isolate).

**Chromobacterium violaceum:** F 77y with leukaemia (blood isolate).

**Diphtheroids:** M 35y with intravascular line (blood isolate).

**Flavobacterium odoratum:** F 78y with HTLV-1, lymphoma,

pulmonary tuberculosis and intravascular line (blood isolate).  
**Gemella haemolysans** 2: F 34y and M 68y with endocarditis (blood isolates).

**G. morbillorum:** M 85y with endocarditis (blood isolate).

**Lactobacillus sp:** F 27y after childbirth (blood isolate).

**Pediococcus acidilactici:** F 7y with myelodysplasia had intravascular line (blood isolate).

**Providencia stuartii** 2: M 80y and M 91y with urinary tract disease (both blood isolate).

## Animal-associated infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/22 - 25

**Borrelia burgdorferi** 2: M 35y with erythema chronicum migrans who visited a forested area in W Germany and F 57y with rash and arthralgia.

**Brucella melitensis** 3: F 21y with fever, recently visited Pakistan, F 28y who ate unpasteurised cheese in France and Portugal (both blood isolates), M 48y with vertebral discitis after travelling in Spain (isolate from disc).

**Chlamydia psittaci:** pregnant F 30y, veterinary officer, developed severe pneumonia and thrombocytopenia after attending delivery of lambs in a flock known to have enzootic abortion of ewes.

**Leptospirosis** 3: M 29y with fever; M 33y, farm worker;

farmer, age not stated (all serological diagnoses).

**Orf paravaccinia** 1: F 24y with infected finger after handling lambs.

**Pasteurella** 21: *P. multocida* 18; *pasteurella sp* 3. 12 patients had dog bites; 4 had cat bites/scratches; M 30y had infected hand and F 59y had infected varicose ulcer. F 61y after vascular surgery (tracheal isolate). M 73y with myelodysplasia and M 80y (both blood isolates).

**Toxoplasma** 60: 29 patients had lymphadenopathy (histology suggestive 3); 15 had eye lesions and 3 were HIV-1 antibody positive.

## Health advice for travellers

Copies of two leaflets on health advice for travellers, prepared by the Department of Health and the Central Office of Information, are distributed with the CDR this week.

Health Advice for Travellers inside the European Community (T2) is generally available from the Post Office. Health Advice for Travellers outside the European Community (T3) is available free of charge through travel agents, general practitioners, the Health Literature Line (0800 555 777) or through PRESTEL Travel database. Bulk orders (more than 10) must be ordered from Health Publications Unit, No 2 Site, Heywood Stores, Manchester Road, Heywood, Lancs OL10 2PZ.

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