

Communicable Disease Report

Food poisoning associated with the consumption of mayonnaise

A large outbreak of food poisoning, affecting over 100 people, occurred in North East Essex and East Suffolk in mid-July. Those affected experienced vomiting and diarrhoea after eating food prepared in a sandwich bar. *Salmonella enteritidis* phage type 4 has been isolated from stool specimens from 85 of those who were ill. A collaborative investigation was set up, involving the Consultant in Communicable Disease Control for North East Essex, the Colchester Borough Council Environmental Health Department, Ipswich Public Health Laboratory, and the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre.

A cohort study of 91 persons has been conducted. Preliminary analysis of the 81 (89%) questionnaires returned shows a strong association (relative risk = 8.4, $p < 0.001$) between illness and the consumption of sandwiches containing mayonnaise. None of the other 31 food items was associated with illness. The mayonnaise used in the establishment at the time of the outbreak was made from fresh shell eggs.

Salmonella and Corfu

Two individuals were reported on 7 August to have become ill after returning by air from Corfu to Newcastle. CDSC has since received reports from Barrow-in-Furness, Basildon, Bristol, Darlington, Derby and Weston-Super-Mare of at least 40 other cases of gastroenteritis occurring in people returning from Corfu with the same major air carrier. *S. enteritidis* phage type 6A has been isolated from at least 10 stool samples. Affected individuals stayed at various locations in Corfu, and all returned to England on 2nd or 3rd August. Food for the homeward flights was prepared in Corfu. CDSC will be grateful for information on any other cases of salmonellosis in people recently returned from Corfu.

Tuberculosis in hospital staff

Two recent cases of sputum positive tuberculosis in health professionals involved in regular direct patient care in South London have been reported. Both cases involved nurses working on general medical or surgical wards for some time before their diagnoses were made. The guidelines of the British Thoracic Society¹ were adopted and arrangements made to follow up those at greatest risk, ie, household contacts, staff in daily close contact, patients considered unusually susceptible (young children and those with immunosuppressive disorders) and patients who had spent a week or more on the ward during the relevant period. Contacts were followed up with chest X-rays and Heaf tests after enquiry into their BCG vaccination status. In the first investigation, 250 contacts were examined and no new cases of tuberculous infection were identified. In the second, investigations are almost complete and, again, no new cases have come to light.

1. British Thoracic Society (Subcommittee of Joint Tuberculosis Committee). Control and prevention of tuberculosis in Britain: an updated code of practice. *BMJ* 1990; 300: 995-9.

Hepatitis:

weeks 91/29 - 32

Miscellaneous viruses:

weeks 91/29 - 32

Sexually transmitted diseases:

weeks 91/29 - 32

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:

weeks 91/29 - 32

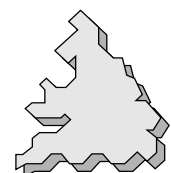
Unusual infections

Imported infections:

weeks 91/29 - 32

Opportunist infections:

weeks 91/29 - 32



PHLS

Public Health Laboratory Service

Hepatitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/29 – 32

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total for weeks 91/29-32	Cumulative total 1991
	91/29	91/30	91/31	91/32		
Hepatitis A (IgM)	99	147	100	99	445	4572
HBsAg total	28	49	29	40	146	1249
acute hepatitis B	7	15	8	10	40	347
other	21	34	21	30	106	902

Hepatitis A

A total of 445 reports was received, the lowest 4-weekly total since late 1989. This included 20 further reports (7 male, 13 female) from the Corby community outbreak and additional reports from community outbreaks in Airedale, Cardiff and Liverpool. Family outbreaks were reported from Northern (1), Yorkshire (1), E Anglia (2), NW Thames (1), Wessex (1), S Western (1), Mersey (2) and N Western (6) regions, as were

increases in the number of cases diagnosed in Hull (Yorkshire) and Dudley (W Midlands). A history of travel abroad in the six weeks preceding the onset of illness was recorded in 30/445 (6%) reports: Indian subcontinent 16, Europe/Mediterranean 4, Africa 3, Central/South America 2, SE Asia 2; other 3, including M 23y who declined immunoglobulin prophylaxis because of religious beliefs.

Laboratory reports	Age (years)					Not stated	Total
	<1	1-14	15-44	45-64	≥65		
Hepatitis A (IgM)	–	138	268	18	8	13	445
HBsAg total	1	8	105	23	2	7	146
acute hepatitis B	–	3	26	8	1	2	40
other	1	5	79	15	1	5	106

Hepatitis B

Forty reports of acute hepatitis B infection were received (29 male, 11 female). Risk factor information was recorded for 25 (62%): homosexual contact 5 (including M 23y who had practised only 'safer' sex); heterosexual contact 8 (4 male, 4

female, including 2 males and 1 female who had unprotected sexual intercourse in Thailand); sexual contact type unspecified 4 (male); surgery and/or transfusion 2 (1 male, 1 female); other 2 (female); no recognised risk 4 (2 male, 2 female).

Miscellaneous viruses, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/29 – 32

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total for weeks 91/29-32	Cumulative total 1991
	91/29	91/30	91/31	91/32		
Cytomegalovirus	22	27	30	22	101	730
Molluscum contagiosum	1	–	–	2	3	25
Varicella zoster	3	2	2	2	9	111
HTLV-1	–	2	1	1	4	14

Cytomegalovirus: 5 regions reported more than 10% of cases: E Anglia (12 cases), NW Thames (11), SW Thames (14), Wessex (11) and Oxford (11).

Ages: 10 babies aged less than 1 year, including 1 neonate; 4 children aged 1-4 years; 1, 5-9 years and 1, 10-14 years; 50 adults aged 15-44 years; 19, 45-64 years and 11, 65 years or more; 5 age not stated.

37 patients had organ transplants; 1 had lymphoma; 6 were known to be HIV-1 antibody positive; 14 patients had hepatitis and 8 had respiratory tract infection. Six patients had glandular fever-like illness.

Epstein-Barr virus: M 8y with sore throat and acute liver failure.

Molluscum contagiosum: 3 adults.

Herpes simplex: F 23y with lymphocytic meningitis and ulcerative tonsillitis (throat, serol); F 33y had encephalitis (serol); M 56y after lung transplant (broncho-alveolar lavage).

Varicella zoster: F 4y had encephalitis.

HTLV-1: female, age not stated, wife of HTLV-1 positive male; female, age not stated, wife of tropical spastic paraparesis patient; female infant, mother known HTLV-1 positive; West Indian M 49y with lymphoma had multiple cranial nerve palsies.

Papovavirus: M 23y (urine) and M 25y (urine microscopy), both after bone marrow transplant.

Polyomavirus: M 5y and M 34y after bone marrow transplant (both urine); F 18y on cytotoxic therapy (urine microscopy).

Sexually transmitted diseases, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/29 – 32

Laboratory reports	Male	Female	Not stated	Total for weeks 91/29-32	Cumulative total 1991
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>					
β-lactamase producing	10	2	2	14	128
other penicillin-resistant strains	1	–	–	1	66
extra-genital isolates	12	1	–	13	154
<i>Ophthalmia neonatorum</i> (<6 weeks)					
gonococcal	–	–	–	–	9
chlamydia	21	20	–	41	294
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	795	1417	18	2230	18187
Herpes simplex	276	430	16	722	6019

Comment

***Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, β-lactamase producing strains.** Country of infection: Jamaica, Nigeria, one each.

Other penicillin-resistant strains: case reported was also β-lactamase producing.

Extra-genital isolates: 4 from throat (all male) and 9 from rectum (8 male, 1 female).

***Chlamydia trachomatis*, genital tract infections:** 2230 (795 male and 1417 female).

Eye infections: 41 babies aged less than 6 weeks; 8 children aged 6 weeks or more; 26 adults and 7 patients, age not stated. One woman with pelvic inflammatory disease and 4 with infertility.

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/29 – 32

Laboratory reports	No. of reports received		Age		Total for weeks 91/29-32	Cumulative total 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	<1m	≥65y		
<i>Bacteroides sp</i>	73	–	5	33	73	581
<i>Clostridium sp</i>	26	–	–	14	26	198
Anaerobic cocci	12	–	1	5	12	106
<i>Acinetobacter sp</i>	27	–	–	10	27	153
<i>Aeromonas sp</i>	4	–	–	2	4	20
<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	118	1	3	56	119	792
<i>Serratia sp</i>	15	–	2	9	15	106

Bacteraemia

Bacteroides sp: *B. distasonis* 2; *B. fragilis* 49; *B. loeschei* 1; *B. melaninogenicus* 1; *B. praecuta* 1; *B. thetaiotaomicron* 2; *B. uniformis* 1; *B. ureolyticus* 1; *B. vulgatus* 2. *B. fragilis*, M 26y with transplant nephrectomy and M 82y with myeloma (both blood isolates). *B. thetaiotaomicron*, F 67y with leukaemia (blood isolate). *B. ureolyticus*, F 71y on haemodialysis (blood isolate).

***Fusobacterium sp* 2:** *F. necrophorum*, M 18y with cerebral

abscess and cavernous sinus thrombosis and M 5y with cavernous sinus thrombosis (both blood isolates).

Clostridium sp: *C. baratti* 1; *C. butyricum* 1; *C. perfringens* 15; *C. ramosum* 1; *C. septicum* 5; *C. tertium* 2. *C. perfringens*, M 72y with myeloma. *C. septicum*, F 68y and male, age not stated, both with leukaemia. *C. tertium*, M 48y with leukaemia.

Anaerobic streptococcus: F 27y, post partum.

Veillonella sp: M 53y with lymphoma.

Laboratory reports	Total bacteraemia	Gastrointestinal tract	Biliary tract (ERCP)	UTI/GU (pregnant)	Ischaemic/pressure sores
<i>Bacteroides sp</i>	73	26	3 (1)	4 (–)	4
<i>Clostridium sp</i>	26	11	2 (–)	–	–
Anaerobic cocci	12	–	1 (–)	4 (–)	–

Acinetobacter sp: *A. calcoaceticus (anitratu)* 14; *A. haemolyticus* 1; *A. lwoffii* 2. *Acinetobacter sp*, M 82y on haemodialysis.

Aeromonas sp: *A. hydrophila* 3: M 88y and M 49y, both with leukaemia; F 70y with septic arthritis.

Agrobacterium tumefaciens: 47y with CSF shunt.

Alcaligenes sp: F 73y with cellulitis.

Pseudomonas sp: *P. acidovorans* 4; *P. aeruginosa* 89; *P. cepacia* 4; *P. diminuta* 1; *P. fluorescens* 3; *P. maltophilia* 7; *P. stutzeri* 1. *P.*

aeruginosa, F 49y with liver transplant; M 52y on haemodialysis; F 62y with prosthetic heart valve; F 85y with osteomyelitis; M 75y in acute renal failure; HIV-1 antibody positive male, age not stated.

Serratia sp: *S. liquefaciens* 3; *S. marcescens* 6; *S. odorifera* 1; *S. plymuthica* 1. *S. marcescens*, M 6d (blood, throat, umbilical cord isolates). *Serratia sp*, F 26y with liver abscess.

Laboratory reports	Total bacteraemia	UTI/GU (pregnant)	Burns	Intravascular lines	Leukaemia/bone marrow suppression (IV-lines)
<i>Acinetobacter sp</i>	27	2 (-)	-	2	12 (5)
<i>Aeromonas sp</i>	4	-	-	-	4 (-)
<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	118	22 (-)	1	7	28 (7)
<i>Serratia sp</i>	15	1 (-)	-	-	-

Meningitis

Pseudomonas aeruginosa: F 40y after neurosurgery (CSF isolate).

Unusual infections

Capnocytophaga sp: M 70y following dog bite (blood isolate).
Cedecea davisae M 60y with diverticulitis and leg abscesses (blood isolate).

Corynebacterium jeikeium: M 68y with haemodialysis and IV-line (blood isolate).

Corynebacterium pseudodiphtheriticum (Corynebacterium hominis): F 4y with tonsillitis (throat isolate).

Corynebacterium sp 3: M 30y with acute toxoplasmosis (HIV-

1 antibody positive); M 70y with heart valve prosthesis and F 49y (all blood isolates).

Diphtheroids 1: M 71y with leukaemia (blood isolate).

Gemella sp 3: M 41y with leukaemia and IV-line; F 59y with biliary tract infection; premature M 1m (all blood isolates).

Kingella kingae 1: F 9y with abdominal pain (blood isolate).

Propionibacterium acnes 2: F 17y and F 70y with CSF shunts (CSF isolates).

Imported infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/29 – 32

Ancylostoma duodenale 1: male, age not stated.

Clonorchis sp 6: *C. sinensis* 4: M 60y, raw fish eater, recently visited Japan; M 5y and patient, sex not stated, 37y, recently visited Vietnam; M 45y. *Clonorchis sp* 2: male, age not stated and patient, sex not stated, 10y.

Dipetalonema perstans 4: M 13y; two males and one female, age not stated.

Hookworms 24 (Pakistan 4, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Vietnam, one each).

Plasmodium sp 56: *P. falciparum* 25 (Nigeria 7, Ghana 5, Cameroun 2, Kenya 2, East Africa, Liberia, Uganda, West Africa, one each). *P. ovale* 5 (Ghana 2, Algeria, Liberia, Nigeria, one each). *P. vivax* 26 (India 7, Pakistan 2, Tanzania 1).

Schistosoma sp 15: *S. haematobium* 7; *S. intercalatum* 1; *S. mansoni* (Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, one each); *Shistosoma sp* 1.

Strongyloides sp 8: *S. stercoralis* 6 (Bangladesh, Pakistan, one each); *Strongyloides sp* 2 (Pakistan 1).

Opportunist infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/29 – 32

Absidia corymbifera 1: immunosuppressed male, age not stated.

Actinomyces israelii 1: M 31y with oro-facial infection.

Aspergillus fumigatus 3: immunocompromised M 15y and male, age not stated; F 8y had cystic fibrosis.

Candida sp 21 (all blood isolates): *C. albicans* 17; *C. parapsilosis* 3; *C. tropicalis* 1. Nine patients had IV-lines; 2 were premature infants; M 33y had had a cardiac transplant.

Cryptococcus neoformans 4: M 24y and M 34y (blood and CSF isolates); M 55y, HIV-1 antibody positive; F 49y, immuno-

suppressed.

Histoplasma sp 2: *H. capsulatum*, M 27y with AIDS (lymph node, lung, brain isolates).

Pneumocystis carinii 7: 5 males were HIV-1 antibody positive; 5 isolates were from sputum, one from pleural fluid and one from broncho-alveolar lavage.

Torulopsis glabrata 6 (all blood isolates): 4 patients had IV-lines, one of whom aged 47y had leukaemia; one was a premature infant.

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