

Communicable Disease Report

Echovirus surveillance

Many types of echovirus circulate (with variable periodicity) in the community for one or two years before being replaced by another type. The exception to this pattern occurs with echovirus type 22 which is reported commonly every year. Some types are very rarely reported to CDSC and annual totals of these seldom exceed 20 cases.

This year types 9, 18 and 30 are circulating in relatively small numbers. The total number of reports received of all the echoviruses is low. The annual number of reports of echovirus type 9 has ranged from 16 to 432 during the last twenty years, with peaks of activity in 1973-74 (537 cases), 1976-77 (530 cases) and 1987-88 (641 cases). In 1990, 47 reports of this type were received by CDSC.

Echovirus type 18 is, in general, an uncommonly reported enterovirus. The annual number of reports has ranged from 2 to 184 during the last twenty years, with peaks of activity in 1971-72 (157 cases) and 1986-87 (217 cases).

Echovirus type 30 began to show evidence of increased activity in May - June this year (*Communicable Disease Report* 1991; 1: 116). Fifty-six reports have been received so far this year. This virus has been fairly commonly reported over the years with 4 to 743 reports received annually. Peaks occurred in 1975-76 (530 cases), 1980-81 (974 cases) and 1986-87 (418 cases).

The clinical presentation in patients with these infections is indistinguishable and includes minor upper respiratory tract symptoms, diarrhoea and aseptic meningitis. Macular rash is reported in a small proportion of cases.

Reporting of outbreaks

CDSC would be grateful for the prompt reporting from microbiologists, public health physicians and environmental health officers, by telephone, facsimile, or Epinet (Network PHLS) of any outbreak of foodborne or other infection which may be important locally, or which may develop to become of more than local significance, or in which prompt epidemiological investigation may lead to the identification of a vehicle or source of infection. The PHLS, including CDSC, is happy to offer advice and, where invited, assistance in the investigation of such outbreaks.

It is sufficient to report small local outbreaks in the normal way, on forms 50 or MOEH forms, when local investigations are complete. When local outbreak investigations result in a report which documents the microbiological and epidemiological findings, CDSC would be grateful for copies.

Infection control in general practice

A study day for Practice Nurses will be held at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, on Thursday 31 October 1991. The study day will aim to introduce concepts of infection control in general practice and to provide a forum for discussion of the issues raised. For further information, please contact Joyce Whitney (am) or Valerie Clarke (pm), Central Public Health Laboratory, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HT (telephone 081 200 4400).

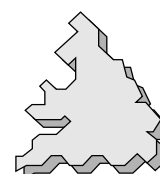
Virus infections:
weeks 91/30 - 33

Selected bacterial infections:
weeks 91/30 - 33

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:
weeks 91/30 - 33

Unusual infections

Animal-associated infections:
weeks 91/30 - 33



Virus infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/30 - 33

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/30-33	Cumulative total for 1991
	91/30	91/31	91/32	91/33		
Coxsackie A	1	3	3	2	9	46
Coxsackie B	16	15	11	19	61	267
Echovirus	7	13	31	21	72	244
Measles	2	2	2	2	8	31
Mumps	3	—	1	1	5	33
Parvovirus B19	23	12	21	16	72	583
Rubella	4	3	15	4	26	199

Coxsackie A: A7, 1; A9, 5; A10, 1; A16, 1; A21, 1. Two patients presented with meningitis (CSF isolate, 1): M 12y and M 18y.

Coxsackie B: B1, 2; B2, 3; B3, 30; B4, 8; B5, 15; B6, 3. Five patients presented with meningitis (CSF isolate, 2): M 12y; M 16y; M 18; F 37y; and pregnant woman. Five other patients had myocarditis/pericarditis: M 2y, M 20y; M 40y; F 70y and M 77y.

Echovirus: type 3, 1; type 4, 2; type 7, 1; type 9, 26; type 11, 1; type 12, 1; type 14, 1; type 17, 2; type 18, 17; type 22, 3; type 29, 1; type 30, 16.

Thirty patients presented with meningitis (CSF isolate, 24): 17 children aged less than 15 years including 2 neonates and 2 other babies aged less than 1 year; 10 adults aged 15-44 years;

3 age not stated.

The number of reports received of echovirus type 9 and echovirus type 18 have increased in the current four-week period though clinical presentations have been as expected with echoviruses and include upper respiratory tract illnesses, diarrhoea and aseptic meningitis.

Type 9: 26 of the 47 reports this year have been received in the current four-week period compared with 5 or 6 reports in previous four-week periods. Sixteen of the 26 reports were from Yorkshire and 4 from N Western region.

Type 18: 15 of the 25 reports this year have been received in the current four-week period, compared with 2-5 reports in previous four-week periods. Ten of the 15 reports were from Oxford region.

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

Notifications					Total 91/30-33	Cumulative total for 1991
	91/30	91/31	91/32	91/33		
Measles	209	213	225	184	831	6653
Mumps	47	53	55	49	204	1972
Rubella	188	165	183	175	711	5120

Measles: 4 children aged less than 15 years including F 13y with SSPE; 4 adults.

Mumps: 2 children including M 4y with aseptic meningitis (CSF isolate); 3 adults.

Parvovirus (B19): 5 regions reported 7 or more cases: Northern (7), Wessex (7), S Western (10), W Midlands (11) and N Western (11).

Ages: 9 children aged less than 15 years; 51 adults aged 15-44 years; 9 aged 45-64 years and 1 aged 65 or more years; 2 age not stated. Forty-five patients presented with rash and 43 had

arthritis/arthritis. Two patients with aplastic crisis were reported. F 62y with severe anaemia had pericarditis at post-mortem.

Rubella: 2 regions reported more than 3 cases: Northern (8) and Trent (5).

Ages: 5 children aged 15 years or less including 1 neonate with congenital infection whose mother arrived from Bangladesh during pregnancy; 18 adults aged 15-44 years (15 males); 3 aged 45 years or more. Eight patients presented with arthralgia.

Selected bacterial infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/30 - 33

Bordetella pertussis 21: 2 regions reported more than 2 cases: S Western (3) and Wales (3).

Ages: 8 babies aged less than 6 months, including one neonate

and 6 aged 3 months or less; 1 infant aged 6-11 months; 7 children aged 1-5 years and 5 aged 6-14 years.

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/30 - 33

Laboratory reports	No of reports received		Age		Total received	Cumulative total for 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	< 1m	≥ 65y		
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	17	36	–	2	53 (14) *	740
group A	–	3			3 (2) *	
B	12	20			32 (6) *	
C	4	10			14 (5) *	
W135	–	1			1 (1) *	
ungrouped	1	2			3	
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	49	41	1	5	90 (7) §	729
type b	26	31			57 (7) §	
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	4	3	–	2	7	53

*sulphonamide-resistant

§β-lactamase producing

Neisseria meningitidis: 2 regions reported more than 10% of cases: Northern (6 cases) and S Western (9). Sixteen patients presented with rash. Fourteen sulphonamide-resistant strains were reported: **group A**, 2 (Trent 1, S Western 1); **group B**, 6 (Northern, Yorkshire 2, N Western 2 and Wales); **group C**, 5

(Northern, Trent 2, NW Thames and NE Thames); **group W135**, 1 (N Western).

Also reported: F 47y with meningitis and subdural abscess (antigen detected in CSF) required clipping of aneurysm after subarachnoid haemorrhage and drainage of abscess.

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

Notifications	91/30	91/31	91/32	91/33	Total 91/30-33	Cumulative total for 1991
Total meningitis	52	45	51	57	205	1823
Meningococcal meningitis	16	8	12	7	43	829
Meningococcal bacteraemia	3	5	4	7	19	189

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	
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	15	9	5	2	2	2	3	6	1	8	1
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	24§	30	10	3	2	4	–	–	–	13	4

§ includes 4 aged ≤ 3 months

Haemophilus influenzae: 4 regions reported more than 10% of cases: Trent (9 cases), Wessex (11), W Midlands (9) and N Western (9). Bacteraemia: preterm F 1d; F 1y with thrombocytopenia had a pericardial effusion; M 60y had suppurative cervical lymphadenopathy and F 60y had cellulitis of neck. Six β-lactamase producing strains, from young children, were reported (Trent, NW Thames, Wessex 2, S Western and Wales) and one from M 5y (SE Thames). Two other ampicillin-resistant strains, both from young children,

were reported (S Western and W Midlands).

Also reported: F 1y with osteomyelitis (joint isolate).

H. parainfluenzae: diabetic M 43y with osteomyelitis (bone isolate); M 57y with pneumonia (blood isolate) and M 88y (blood isolate).

Listeria monocytogenes: meningitis: F 54y and F 74y; immunosuppressed female on CAPD. Bacteraemia: F 37y and male, age not stated, with leukaemia; F 57y with chronic active hepatitis and F 76y with pyrexia.

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

Clinical features	Age in years				Not stated
	≤ 3	4-14	15-64	≥ 65	
Meningitis (blood isolate only)	40 (3)	3	–	–	1
Epiglottitis	11	1	–	–	–
Pneumonia	–	1	2	1	–
Septic arthritis/osteomyelitis	3	–	–	–	–
Facial cellulitis	4	–	–	–	–

Unusual infections

Achromobacter sp 2: F 57 on haemodialysis and M 67y with acute renal failure (both blood isolates).

Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans: M 76y with endocarditis (blood isolate).

Aerococcus viridans 2: preterm F 16d; F 71y with leukaemia (both blood isolates).

Bacillus cereus 2: F 16d (blood isolate); preterm F 1m on ventilator (endotracheal tube isolate).

Branhamella catarrhalis 2: F 1y with sinusitis and male with carcinomatosis and pleural effusion (both blood isolates).

Corynebacterium jeikeium 2: M 32y after bone marrow transplant and M 72y with myelodysplasia and endocarditis (both blood isolates).

Corynebacterium minutissimum: M 10y with IV-line, had bone marrow transplant (blood isolate).

Diphtheroids 4: M 8y with pneumonia; M 18y with leukaemia

and M 50y with leukaemia and IV-line; M 56y (all blood isolates).

Flavobacterium breve: F 84y (blood isolate).

Gardnerella vaginalis: F 21y after caesarean section (blood and genital tract isolates).

Lactobacillus rhamnosus: M 85y with pleural empyema (blood, pleural aspirate isolates).

Lactobacillus sp: F 30y after caesarean section (blood isolate).

Leptotrichia buccalis: F 29y with leukaemia (blood isolate).

Moraxella sp 2: F 19y with sinusitis and male with leukaemia and IV-line (both blood isolates).

Propionibacterium acnes: M 9y with depressed skull fracture and subdural effusion (subdural aspirate isolate).

Providencia alcalifaciens: F 69y (blood isolate).

Providencia stuartii: M 55y with urinary tract disease and catheter (blood and urine isolates).

Animal-associated infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/30 - 33

Brucellosis 3: Australian F 23y after walking holiday in Africa. *B. melitensis* 2: M 34y, laboratory worker (blood isolate); M 37y after eating cheese from Portugal (blood isolate), others in his family who also ate the cheese were ill, but organism not isolated from them.

Leptospirosis 1: M 59y, veterinary surgeon.

Orf paravaccinia 3: including one with history of contact with dead lamb.

Pasteurella 29: *P. multocida* 26; *P. pneumotropica* 1. Twelve patients had dog bites; 4 had cat bites/scratches; 8 had other

infected skin lesions. F 2m with nasal discharge (nasal swab); M 28y with chronic sinusitis (antrum washings); F 51y with bronchiectasis (sputum); M 49y with otitis media (ear). *P. multocida*: F 85y with duodenal perforation (blood isolate).

Toxocara 4: 2 children aged 5 years or less, one with hepatosplenomegaly and eye lesion; F 23y and M 60y with eye lesions.

Toxoplasma 58: eye lesions 11; lymphadenopathy 21 (histology suggestive 5); 8 HIV-1 antibody positive adults including two men with cerebral symptoms.

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