

Communicable Disease Report

Malaria in the United Kingdom

The number of cases reported to the Malaria Reference Laboratory during the first half of this year (934) compares with 968 in the first six months of 1990 and 813 in the same period of 1989 (see *Communicable Disease Report* 1990; (24): 4 and (33): 4). There was an increase (7%) in *P. vivax* infections, from 345 in 1990 to 368 in 1991 and a decrease (10%) in the number of *P. falciparum* infections reported, from 518 in 1990 to 464 in 1991. The most significant change was a rise of 18% in the number of cases of vivax malaria acquired in the Indian subcontinent.

The number of reports increased dramatically in July and August by 626 cases, mainly due to a large increase in the number of falciparum infections acquired in Africa. This brings the cumulative total in 1991 to 1560, compared with 1451 in 1990, and 1318 in 1989 (for the same period). The totals for *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* infections are both higher than in 1990, showing increases of 9% and 8%, respectively. Over 2000 cases of malaria were reported in the UK last year; the highest number since the previous and largest peak of 2309 infections recorded in 1986.

Reports to the Malaria Reference Laboratory (Jan - Aug 1991)

Plasmodium species	Country of infection			Total
	Africa	Indian subcontinent	Rest of world/ not stated	
<i>P. falciparum</i>	711	11	58	780
<i>P. vivax</i>	30	544	75	649
<i>P. malariae</i>	8	—	1	9
<i>P. ovale</i>	83	1	9	93
Mixed	19	10	—	29
Total	851	566	143	1560

Five deaths have been recorded so far during 1991 (compared with four in each of the two previous calendar years): a 29 year old British male who had not taken malaria prophylaxis died suddenly after visiting his family in Kenya; a West Indian woman aged 51 years died from infection with *P. ovale* (splenic rupture) after a visit to Ghana without prophylaxis; a 37 year old merchant seaman died after a six week illness following his return from West Africa without antimalarial cover; a 45 year old British man, who regularly visited Africa, died six days after admission to hospital on his return from Kenya, and a 16 year old Asian from Kenya died two weeks after being taken ill whilst visiting the UK.

Appropriate prophylaxis, the use of impregnated nets and protective clothing are essential for those visiting areas in which malaria is prevalent. All cases of unexplained fever after travel to endemic areas should be investigated for malaria with the assistance of a local specialist in infectious or tropical diseases. A list of sources of advice for travellers was published in the August review issue of the *Communicable Disease Report*.

Virus infections:
weeks 91/34 - 37

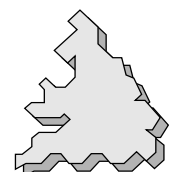
Selected bacterial infections:
weeks 91/34 - 37

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:
weeks 91/34 - 37

Unusual infections

Animal-associated infections:
weeks 91/34 - 37

Notice



Virus infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/34 - 37

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/34-37	Cumulative total 1991
	91/34	91/35	91/36	91/37		
Coxsackie A	2	1	2	–	5	51
Coxsackie B	15	12	15	8	50	317
Echovirus	17	29	39	38	123	367
Measles	–	–	–	1	1	32
Mumps	2	–	2	–	4	37
Parvovirus B19	11	8	10	7	36	619
Rubella	3	2	4	4	13	212

Coxsackie A: A9, 4; A21, 1.

One patient presented with meningitis: F 16y (throat isolate).

Coxsackie B: B1, 1; B2, 1; B3, 20; B4, 4; B5, 12; B6, 10; B untyped, 2.

Nine patients presented with meningitis (CSF isolate, 5). F 12y, F 24y, M 9d, M 9y, M 12y, M 27y, M 34y, M 68y and male, age not stated.

Echovirus: type 2, 1; type 3, 1; type 4, 1; type 5, 3; type 6, 1; type 7, 1; type 9, 20; type 11, 3; type 12, 1; type 14, 3; type 17, 6; type

18, 31; type 19, 1; type 20, 1; type 22, 10; type 24, 1; type 25, 1; type 27, 1; type 29, 1; type 30, 33; untyped 2.

Forty patients presented with meningitis (CSF isolate, 15): 19 children aged less than 15 years, including 3 neonates and 3 other babies aged less than 1 year; 18 adults and 3 age not stated.

The upsurge of cases reported previously is continuing and increasing, predominantly of types 18 (31 cases) and 30 (33 cases).

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

Notifications	91/34	91/35	91/36	91/37	Total 91/34-37	Cumulative total 1991
Measles	180	130	175	137	622	7275
Mumps	33	33	29	43	138	2110
Rubella	163	84	116	130	493	5613

Measles: F 5y.

Mumps: one child aged 1 year and 3 adults.

Parvovirus (B19): 4 regions reported 4 or more cases: Yorkshire (10), Trent (4), Wessex (9) and S Western (5).

Ages: 4 children aged less than 15 years; 26 adults aged 15-44 years and 6 aged more than 45 years.

Twenty-four patients had rash and 18 had arthritis/arthralgia. Two patients with aplastic crisis were reported.

Rubella: one region reported more than 2 cases: Yorkshire (3). Ages: 5 children aged less than 15 years; 6 adults aged 15-44 years, including 4 women. Two patients presented with acute arthritis.

Selected bacterial infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/34 - 37

Arcanobacterium (Corynebacterium) haemolyticum 3: F 74y and F 84y with leg ulcers (skin isolates); M 64y with endocarditis (isolate from femoral artery embolus).

Bordetella pertussis 38: 2 regions reported 4 or more cases: NE Thames (9) and SW Thames (5).

Ages: 14 babies aged less than 6 months, including 11 aged 3 months or less; 2 infants aged 6-11 months; 16 children aged 1-5 years, 4 aged 6-14 years and 2 age not stated.

Corynebacterium sp: F 6y with CSF shunt (CSF isolate).

Streptococcus group A: F 10y (ASO and anti-DNAse B titres).

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/34 - 37

Laboratory reports	No of reports received		Age		Total received	Cumulative total 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	< 1m	≥ 65y		
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	15	16	–	3	31 (3) *	771
group A	–	–			–	
B	7	9			16 (2) *	
C	4	5			9 (1) *	
ungrouped	4	2			6	
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	26	12	2	2	38 (4) §	767
type b	12	10			22 (2) §	
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	4	4	1	4	8	61

*sulphonamide-resistant

§β-lactamase producing

Neisseria meningitidis: 3 regions reported more than 10% of cases: Northern (4 cases), SE Thames (7) and Wessex (5). Eleven patients were reported to have a rash. Three sulphonamide-resistant strains were reported: **group B**, 2

(Northern, W Midlands); **group C**, 1 (Oxford). A family outbreak was reported from the South East affecting 2 siblings aged 4 years and 1 year.

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

Notifications	91/34	91/35	91/36	91/37	Total 91/34-37	Cumulative total 1991
Total meningitis	70	24	43	50	187	2010
Meningococcal meningitis	12	4	14	15	45	874
Meningococcal septicaemia	5	5	2	4	16	205

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>	8	8	–	2	1	3	–	–	1	7	1
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	17§	4	4	4	1	–	–	1	1	5	1

§ includes 6 aged ≤3 months

Haemophilus influenzae: 4 regions reported more than 10% of cases: Northern (5 cases), NW Thames (4), SE Thames (7) and W Midlands (6).

Four β-lactamase producing strains were reported (NW Thames, SW Thames, W Midlands and Wales). One other ampicillin-resistant strain was reported, in a child with a skull fracture (blood isolate only, SE Thames). A mother developed infection during labour and gave birth to a child who died within 24 hours from sepsis (Oxford region). The

organism was isolated from both mother (blood and high vaginal swab) and baby (blood, gastric fluid and outer ear). Also reported: **type b**, M 2y with septic arthritis/osteomyelitis (joint isolate).

Listeria monocytogenes: meningitis: M 11d and M 5y after bone marrow transplants; M 51y with leukaemia; M 72y on steroids for idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. Bacteraemia: M 15y, F 74y, F 80y with lymphoma, M 83y.

***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)	14 (3)	–	–	–	–
Epiglottitis	2	–	–	–	–
Pneumonia	2	–	–	1	–
Septic arthritis/osteomyelitis	–	–	–	–	–
Facial cellulitis	1	–	–	–	1

Unusual infections

Achromobacter sp: M 51y and M 31y, both with leukaemia (both blood isolates).

Diphtheroids: F 18y with leukaemia (blood isolate).

Eikenella corrodens: F 86y (blood isolate).

Gemella morbillorum: M 70y (blood isolate).

Haemophilus aphrophilus: M 73y with endocarditis (blood isolate).

Micrococcus sp: F 17y with leukaemia and male, age not stated, with severe combined immunodeficiency (both blood isolates).

Neisseria sicca: F 32y (blood isolate).

Providencia stuartii: male, age not stated, with urinary tract disease (blood isolate).

Animal-associated infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/34 - 37

Borrelia burgdorferi 6: M 20y with rash and arthritis after tick bite in Connecticut, USA last year; M 35y with rash and fever had been to North Dakota, USA; M 62y with erythema chronicum migrans and Bell's palsy lives near deer (Northern region); M 64y with myalgia and night sweats after tick bite, also lives near deer (Wessex region); male with lethargy and sweating 3-4 weeks after tick bite (all serol); M 46y with bilateral facial palsies and meningism had a history of tick bites and lives in a known endemic area in Wessex region (serol, CSF also).

Brucellosis 2: M 33y with chronic infection; F 59y had been taken ill in Italy earlier this year (both serol).

Leptospira 3: *L. hardjo*: F 45y had contact with farm animals. *L. icterohaemorrhagiae*: M 29y, windsurfer, from Trent region;

M 62y was submerged in canal 2 weeks prior to jaundice and renal failure (all serol).

Pasteurella 23: *P. multocida* 20: 9 patients had dog bites; 6 had cat bites/scratches including F 82y with pneumonia (blood isolate); F 40y was in contact with farm animals (wound); M 73y after leg amputation (skin); M 53y and M 63y with bronchiectasis (both sputum). *P. pneumotropica* 1: F 90y with endocarditis (PM heart valve). *Pasteurella sp* 2: one patient with dog bite and one with cat bite.

Toxocara 1: M 5y with anaemia, has brother with toxocariasis also.

Toxoplasma 31: 14 patients had lymphadenopathy (histology suggestive 1); 5 had eye lesions; 3 were known to be HIV-1 antibody positive.

Infections in pregnancy and the neonate

A meeting on infections in pregnancy and the neonate, held under the auspices of the Nottingham School of Public Health, will take place on Tuesday 7 January 1992 at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. Topics will include: toxoplasmosis, chlamydia, herpes, urinary tract infections, vaccines for the future and reviews of infection in the mother and newborn. The registration fee is £40. Further information can be obtained from Dr W L Irving, Public Health Laboratory, University Hospital, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 2UH (telephone 0602 421421).

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