

Communicable Disease Report

Lyme disease surveillance

National surveillance of Lyme disease in England and Wales began in September 1986 when CDSC received the first formal report of a case in a six-year old girl. She presented with an erythematous lesion on her arm and developed a facial palsy three weeks later. She was thought to have been infected following a tick bite in the New Forest six months previously. The diagnosis is predominantly a clinical one although serological tests are usually positive in the later stages of the disease. Antibiotic treatment is effective in abating the early features and preventing the later manifestations. Eighty-seven cases had been reported by laboratories to CDSC up to the end of 1990; 16 between September and December 1986, 13 in 1987, 23 in 1988, 16 in 1989 and 19 in 1990. A further 18 cases have been reported to date this year. The characteristic herald lesion, erythema migrans, is usually accompanied by flu-like symptoms and appears some days after the bite of an ixodid tick (eg *Ixodes ricinus*) infected with the spirochaete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The ticks are found in wooded or long grassed areas and usually feed on small mammals and larger animals such as deer, horses or cattle, depending on the stage of the life cycle. Neurological features, eg facial palsy or radiculitis, may occur months later. Arthritis and carditis are rare complications in the UK and Europe but are described more frequently in patients infected in North America. About 10% of reported cases are likely to have acquired the disease outside the UK.

It is likely that the national incidence of this infection is higher than these figures suggest and CDSC will be grateful for information on any other cases. Reference facilities for the serological diagnosis of Lyme disease are available at the Leptospira Reference Unit, Hereford PHL and at Southampton PHL. A more detailed account of the epidemiology and clinical features of this disease will be published in the CDR review.

Salmonella corvallis and Tunisia

Twenty-four faecal isolates of *Salmonella corvallis* have been identified by the Division of Enteric Pathogens since the beginning of August; none having been identified during the earlier part of the year. Fifteen of these were isolated from patients recently returned from Tunisia and two from unspecified areas in Africa. Similarly, most of the 27 isolates identified in 1990 were reported during the summer months and 15 of these came from patients who had visited Tunisia. CDSC and DEP welcome further reports and relevant information.

Salmonella enteritidis associated with home-made ice cream

CDSC has received reports of three family outbreaks of *Salmonella enteritidis* phage type 4 associated with the consumption of home made ice cream or sorbet made with fresh shell eggs. Seven people were affected. Domestic ice cream makers were used in two incidents and *S. enteritidis* PT4 was isolated from the ice cream or sorbet in all three. Some instruction books for domestic ice cream makers currently include recipes which state that fresh shell eggs should be used. The Gastrointestinal Diseases Section of CDSC will be interested to receive reports of similar outbreaks.

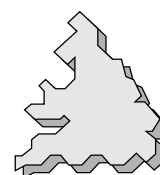
Respiratory tract infections:
weeks 91/35 - 38

Mycobacterial infections:
weeks 91/35 - 38

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:
weeks 91/35 - 38

Unusual infections

Notices



Respiratory tract infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/35 – 38

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/35-38	Cumulative total 1991
	91/35	91/36	91/37	91/38		
Adenovirus (excluding EM faeces)	41	36	32	29	138	1923
Coronavirus	–	1	–	2	3	35
Influenza A	1	–	1	2	4	111
Influenza B	1	4	–	–	5	1966
Parainfluenza	6	4	7	2	19	511
RS virus	15	13	18	8	54	6802
Rhinovirus	3	1	4	2	10	272

Comment

Adenovirus (excluding EM faeces): 42 patients had eye infections, 7 had pneumonia, 3 had bronchiolitis, M 18y had meningitis, M 9m with neutropenia and Wilms' tumour.

Influenza A: (3 single titres, 1 four fold rise), 1 patient had pneumonia.

Influenza B (3 single titres, 2 four fold rise), 1 patient had pneumonia; M 29y with viral meningitis.

Parainfluenza: type 1, 4; type 2, 2; type 3, 12; untyped 1. One patient had pneumonia, 5 had bronchiolitis and 2 had croup.

RS virus: 12 patients had bronchiolitis and 2 had croup.

Rhinovirus: 2 patients had bronchiolitis.

Chlamydia psittaci: 6 patients had pneumonia, 6 patients had contact with birds (1 with cockatiels, 1 with parrots and one had contact with a bird with psittacosis). Also one patient's wife had psittacosis and one had a brother with psittacosis.

Coxiella burnetii: 4 patients had pneumonia; M 33y with congenital aortic stenosis.

Mycoplasma pneumoniae: 4 regions reported more than 10% cases: S Western (35 cases), W Midlands and E Anglia (29 each), Oxford (28). One hundred and twenty-four patients had pneumonia, 2 had bronchiolitis; M 6y had Guillain-Barré syndrome, M 8y with polyneuropathy, F 4y with focal encephalitis; F 10y and M 5y with meningitis (no CSF). M 3y with erythema multiforme, M 7y with rash, M 13y had Stevens-Johnson syndrome, M 13y with bird contact, M 89y with transverse myelitis.

Legionella pneumophila: 5 males and 2 females, age range 27-63 years. Seven patients had pneumonia. One patient died (M 57y following a heart transplant). Recent travel abroad: Canary Islands 1, France 1, Germany 1, Spain 1.

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/35-38	Cumulative total 1991
	91/35	91/36	91/37	91/38		
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>	5	11	4	8	28	327
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>	1	2	2	1	6	67
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	–	1	4	2	7	101
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	52	81	56	67	256	2154

Mycobacterial infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/35 – 38

Mycobacterium tuberculosis 94: 51 males, 38 females, 5 sex not stated.

Pulmonary infections 60: 33 males, 26 females, 1 sex not stated. Sixteen were sputum smear positive. Two patients were aged under 15 years and 22 were aged 65 years or more. There was one isolate from a pleural aspirate.

Disseminated 5: 4 males, 1 female. M 1y (gastric, pulmonary); M 8m with meningitis (gastric), M 46y (peritoneal fluid, lung); M 86y (spleen, lung) died; F 39y with miliary disease.

Meningitis 1: M 8m (CSF).

Lymph nodes 10: 4 males, 3 females, 3 sex not stated. Five from the Indian subcontinent.

Genitourinary 5: 4 males, 1 female.

Bone/joint 3: 2 males, 1 female.

Abscess 9: 3 males (1 cervical, 1 clavicular, 1 infra-scapular). Six females (2 clavicular, 1 paraspinal, 1 neck, 1 elbow, 1 site

not stated).

Cardiovascular 1: 1 female (pericarditis).

M. xenopi 4: M 66y, M 77y, F 81y with pulmonary infections (1 sputum smear positive). M 40y with chest infection and HIV-1 antibody positive.

Avium-intracellulare group 16: 11 HIV-1 antibody positive males (6 blood isolates, 3 faeces, 2 sputum); M 46y with AIDS (urine); M 69y pulmonary infection. F 5y with lymphadenopathy, F 6y with abscess on neck, F 25y HIV-1 antibody positive from Uganda (blood isolate).

M. malmoense 4: M 3y lymphadenopathy; M 57y, M 65y, M 67y with pulmonary infections.

M. fortuitum 2: M 41y, M 63y with pulmonary infections.

M. marinum 1: M 54y with forearm skin granuloma (cleaned garden fish pond).

M. szulgai 1: M 29y with pulmonary infection.

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/35 – 38

Laboratory reports	No. of reports received		Age		Total received	Cumulative total 1991
	blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	<1m	≥65y		
Staphylococci						
<i>S. aureus</i>	380	2	11	146	381 (3) *	3035
Coagulase negative	195	1	18	43	196	1830
Streptococci						
group A	27	–	–	13	27	423
group B	45	3	19	9	48	523
group C & G	33	1	–	26	34	300
enterococci	116	1	5	44	117	1046
α- and non-haemolytic	107	–	8	24	107	1054
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	119	6	5	56	125	3005

* methicillin-resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus***Bacteraemia****Staphylococci:**

S. aureus: 21 patients had UTI/GU surgery including 6 women with post partum infections; 8 had pneumonia/lung abscess; 14 of the patients with intravascular lines were on haemodialysis. F 2y with toxic shock syndrome; M 7d and M 6m with toxic epidermal necrolysis. M 31y had tropical pyomyositis.

Also reported: M 72y and F 73y with septic arthritis (both joint isolates); F 79y, died, with pericarditis (pericardial isolate).

Coagulase negative: F 10y and F 56y with CSF shunts.

Streptococci:

group A: two patients had skin sepsis; 2 women had post partum infections; female, age not stated, had perianal abscess. Also reported: female neonate with umbilical sepsis (skin isolate); female, age not stated, with post partum infection (HVS).

group B: 16 neonates and 2 babies aged 1-3 months; 4 women

with pregnancy-related infections; 3 patients had UTI/GU surgery; 7 patients had skin infections. M 47y with cirrhosis had peritonitis.

group C, 4 and **group G**, 29: 14 patients had skin infections; 1 patient had UTI. Also reported: F 82y with septic arthritis (joint isolate).

enterococci: *S. avium* 1; *S. bovis* 15; *S. faecalis* 55; *S. faecium* 28. Eighteen patients had UTI/GU surgery, including 1 woman with post partum infection; 6 had biliary tract disease.

α-and non-haemolytic: *S. acidominimus* 2; *S. cremoris* 1; *S. lactis* 1; *S. milleri* 13; *S. mitior* 21; *S. morbillorum* 2; *S. mutans* 1; *S. salivarius* 13; *S. sanguis* 38. Four patients had UTI/GU surgery; 4 patients had biliary tract disease, including M 71y after ERCP. F 1m with orbital cellulitis.

Laboratory reports	Total bacteraemia	Acute bone/joint	Age		IV/CVP lines	Pace-makers	Endocarditis (with prostheses)	IVDA (with endocarditis)
			<15y	≥65y				
Staphylococci								
<i>S. aureus</i>	380	33	14	6	72	16	8 (1)	3 (–)
Coagulase negative	195	–	–	–	118	3	7 (2)	–
Streptococci								
group A	27	3	1	–	2	1	–	–
group B	45	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
group C & G	33	1	–	–	–	1	–	–
enterococci	116	2	–	–	20	–	11 (2)	–
α- and non-haemolytic	107	–	–	–	9	–	2 (2)	–
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	119	3	–	1	–	–	1 (–)	–

Meningitis**Staphylococci:**

S. aureus: M 1y and adult male (both CSF). F 2m had meningitis (blood only).

Coagulase negative: F 2m with CSF shunt.

Streptococci:

group B: 3 neonates (one blood isolate only) and 2 other babies aged 1-2 months (one blood isolate only).

group G: M 19y with spina bifida.

S. faecalis: M 1y with CSF shunt.

S. milleri: M 21y had cerebral abscess (pus) and M 44y (pm brain).

S. pneumoniae: 5 children aged 4 years or less; 3 patients aged 65 years or more (2 blood isolate only).

Unusual infections

Aerococcus viridans: M 1y with meningitis (CSF isolate).

Edwardsiella sp.: F 71y with urinary tract infection, also *Escherichia coli* (blood).

Lactobacillus rhamnosus: M 65y with prosthetic valve had

endocarditis (blood).

Moraxella sp.: F 57y (blood).

Neisseria pharyngis: F 64y with septic arthritis (joint).

Providencia stuartii: F 59y with urinary tract infection (blood).

The microbiological safety of food: after the Richmond report

A second conference on the above topic is to be held by the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene (with support from the Department of Health and MAFF). It will take place on Friday 6th December 1991 at the National Agricultural Centre in Warwickshire. Topics include microbiological problems and commodity aspects; an IFST critique of the report; the Government's response to the report; a contribution from the National Consumer Council and a keynote address by Professor Heather Dick, chairman of the Advisory Committee on the microbiological safety of food. The registration fee is £98. Application forms can be obtained from the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, 28 Portland Place, London W1N 4DE (telephone 071 580 2731).

Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland

The Microbiology Section of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland will be holding two half day symposia at the Winter Meeting of the Society on 'PCR in the diagnosis of infectious disease' on 8th January and 'Microbiology and the mouth' on 9th January 1992. Abstracts are also invited for free paper sessions on the afternoons of those two days. Registration is free before 2nd December. Further information is available from Mrs J Edwards, Pathological Society Office, 2 Carlton Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF.

Workshop on the epidemiology and control of infectious diseases and environmental hazards

This workshop, arranged by the academic department of public health, St Mary's Hospital Medical School and the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, Colindale will take place from 9-13 December 1991. The programme includes sessions on sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS and HIV infection, environmental protection, communicable disease, communication, protection against travel hazards in warm climate countries, zoonoses and immunisation. The course fee is £350 (full course) or £100 (daily). Further information can be obtained from Mrs A McLoughlin, Course Organiser, 53 Acton Lane, London NW10 8UX (telephone 081 965 3965, fax 081 963 1689).

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