

Communicable Disease Report

HIV infected health care workers

New guidance has just been published¹ from the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS concerning HIV infected health care workers. The report extends to all health care workers earlier advice by the General Medical and Dental Councils that doctors or dentists who believe they may have been exposed to HIV must seek medical advice and, if appropriate, HIV antibody testing. This includes those who have engaged in invasive medical or surgical techniques in parts of the world where no provision could be made for adequate precautions to be taken against the danger of infection. HIV infected health care workers should not perform invasive surgical procedures in which injury to the worker could result in blood contaminating the patient's open tissues. However, routine HIV testing of health care workers undertaking invasive procedures is not considered justified. A United Kingdom Advisory Panel has been created to provide specific occupational advice to health care workers' personal physicians, occupational physicians and professional bodies, where there is doubt about the need to restrict a particular health care worker's occupational activities.

1. UK Health Departments. AIDS - HIV infected health care workers: occupational guidance for health care workers, their physicians and employers. December 1991. Available from Health Publications Unit, Heywood Stores, No. 2 Site, Manchester Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2PZ.

Influenza activity

There is little evidence at present of any significant influenza activity in England and Wales: clinical indices, such as reports of consultations for influenza from spotter practice schemes, are running at low levels. Only three isolates of influenza virus have been confirmed since September, which were all influenza A of the H₃N₂ subtype, similar to the strain contained in the current vaccine.

Sporadic isolates of a similar influenza A virus have been reported from various parts of Northern Europe but have not been associated with appreciable influenza activity in the community. In the United States, outbreaks of influenza in schools began to be reported in mid-October and, where characterised, have been associated with a similar influenza A virus. Outbreaks have now been reported in eight states and the virus isolated in 21 states. It is not possible to predict the likelihood of significant influenza activity in the UK this winter. Vaccination is recommended for those people at special risk of the complications of influenza infection, as indicated in a letter from the Chief Medical Officer to all doctors (PL/CMO (91) 13).

Legionellosis in Winchester

Two confirmed and one presumptive case of legionnaires' disease have been reported among staff of an army camp near Winchester, with dates of onset between 25 September and 9 October 1991. Three other suspected cases of non-pneumonic legionellosis were also reported and all have recovered. Control measures have been carried out at the suspected source building and no further associated cases have been ascertained.

Hepatitis:
weeks 91/45 - 48

Miscellaneous viruses:
weeks 91/45 - 48

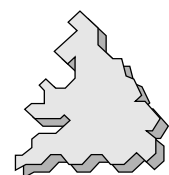
Sexually transmitted diseases:
weeks 91/45 - 48

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:
weeks 91/45 - 48

Unusual infections

Imported infections:
weeks 91/45 - 48

Opportunist infections:
weeks 91/45 - 48



Hepatitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/45 – 48

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total for weeks 91/45-48	Cumulative total 1991
	91/45	91/46	91/47	91/48		
Hepatitis A (IgM)	101	164	88	166	519	6779
HBsAg total	40	39	28	42	149	1837
acute hepatitis B	5	12	14	9	40	510
other	35	27	14	33	109	1327

Hepatitis A

A total of 519 reports was received, a decrease of 30% on the total of reports for the equivalent four-week period in 1990. Twenty-seven further cases from the Kettering/Corby community outbreak were reported, and family outbreaks were reported from the following regions: Northern (4), Yorkshire (1), Trent (1), NE Thames (1), SE Thames (2), S Western (1), W Midlands (7) and N Western (1). Reports

included M 16y who had capsized while canoeing and M 48y who was HBsAg positive also, but had no detectable anti-HBc IgM.

A history of travel abroad in the six weeks preceding the onset of infection was recorded in 34 of 509 (67%) reports: Indian subcontinent 17; Mediterranean/Europe 6; Africa 3; Far East 2; Middle East 2; other 4.

Laboratory reports	Age (years)					Not stated	Total
	<1	1-14	15-44	45-64	≥65		
Hepatitis A (IgM)	–	181	282	31	9	16	519
HBsAg total	3 *	8	107	15	9	7	149
acute hepatitis B	–	–	29	4	5	2	40
other	3 *	8	78	11	4	5	109

* cord blood

Hepatitis B

Forty cases (28 male, 11 female, 1 sex not stated) of acute hepatitis B infection were reported. Risk exposure information was given for 31 (78%): homosexual contact 7; heterosexual contact 2 (females, including F 32y whose partner was HBsAg positive but who denied unprotected sexual intercourse); surgery/transfusion/dentistry 3 (M 37y, F 50y, F 75y); injecting

drug use 3 (male); other 8 (6 male, 1 female, 1 sex not stated) including M 37y who probably acquired HBV in Thailand, and M 39y, a patient in an institution for the mentally handicapped who died from acute hepatic failure; no recognised risk 8 (5 male, 3 female).

Miscellaneous viruses, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/45 – 48

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total for weeks 91/45-48	Cumulative total 1991
	91/45	91/46	91/47	91/48		
Cytomegalovirus	29	31	26	36	122	1179
Molluscum contagiosum	1	–	2	1	4	35
Varicella zoster	3	1	1	2	7	145
HTLV-1	1	2	–	–	3	19

Cytomegalovirus: three regions reported more than 10% of cases: Trent (19), NW Thames (17) and N Western (15).

Ages: 15 babies aged less than one year, of whom 5 were neonates, including 4 with congenital infection; 5 children aged 1-4 years and 3, 5-10 years; 51 adults aged 15-44 years, including 5 pregnant women; 31, 45-64 years and 6, 65 years or more; 11 age not stated.

Forty-four patients had organ transplants (bone marrow 10, heart 10, heart/lung 1, kidney 14, liver 7, lung 1, not stated 2); 3 patients with leukaemia/lymphoma, one with systemic lupus erythematosus. Two patients were on steroids and 3 were known to be HIV-1 antibody positive. Eleven patients had hepatitis and 17 had respiratory tract infection. Six patients had glandular fever-like illness. Three patients had Guillain-Barré syndrome; HIV-1 antibody M 41y had retinitis; F 22y

and F 28y had cervical isolates.

Molluscum contagiosum: one child, 2 adults and one patient, age not stated.

Herpes simplex: HIV-1 antibody positive M 40y (broncho-alveolar lavage isolate); 11d, sex not stated (post mortem lung and liver isolates); M 40y had encephalitis (serology).

Varicella zoster: F 21y had chickenpox pneumonitis; M 55y had zoster associated encephalitis (serology); child 4y had cerebellar ataxia (serology).

HTLV-1 3 (all West Indian): male, age not stated, and F 48y (blood and CSF) both had neurological symptoms; F 49y.

Polyomavirus 5: four bone marrow transplant patients (2y, 5y, 39y, 46y) (all urine, electron microscopy); F 48y with AIDS (urine).

Sexually transmitted diseases, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/45 – 48

Laboratory reports	Male	Female	Not stated	Total for weeks 91/45-48	Cumulative total 1991
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>					
β-lactamase producing	16	9	1	26	190
other antibiotic-resistant strains	6	1	–	7	103
extra-genital isolates	–	–	–	–	214
<i>Ophthalmia neonatorum</i> (<6 weeks)					
gonococcal	–	–	–	–	13
chlamydia	15	17	–	32	441
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	831	1398	32	2261	26978
Herpes simplex	538	352	14	904	9257

Comment

***Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: β-lactamase producing strains:** Country of infection: UK 2, Thailand 4, Jamaica 2, Kenya, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates, one each.

Other antibiotic-resistant strains: 4 tetracycline resistant (3 β-

lactamase producing also), 2 ciprofloxacin resistant (both β-lactamase producing) and 1 penicillin resistant.

***Chlamydia trachomatis*:** eye infections: 33 babies aged less than 6 weeks; 4 children aged 6 weeks or more; 24 adults and 4 patients, age not stated. Three women with infertility.

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/45 – 48

Laboratory reports	No. of reports received		Age		Total for weeks 91/45-48	Cumulative total 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	<1m	≥65y		
<i>Bacteroides sp</i>	72	–	1	47	72	858
<i>Clostridium sp</i>	27	–	–	17	27	282
Anaerobic cocci	12	–	–	5	12	147
<i>Acinetobacter sp</i>	18	2	–	6	20	341
<i>Aeromonas sp</i>	7	–	–	7	7	51
<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	130	–	4	63	130	1338
<i>Serratia sp</i>	16	–	–	6	16	171

Bacteraemia

***Bacteroides sp*:** *B. fragilis* 49; *B. intermedius* 1; *B. melaninogenicus* 1; *B. ovatus* 1; *B. thetaiotaomicron* 1; *B. ureolyticus* 1. *B. fragilis*, M 27y had bone marrow transplant, M 42y and F 57y were on cytotoxic drugs, M 56y with lymphoma, M 66y on haemodialysis, M 75y with pancreatic fistula and F 82y with sideroblastic anaemia had an infected amputation stump (all blood isolates). *B. ovatus*, male neonate with cephalohaematoma after traumatic delivery (blood isolate). Also reported: *Bacteroides sp*, M 36y with chest wall abscess (abscess isolate). ***Fusobacterium sp* 2.**

***Clostridium sp*:** *C. perfringens* 21; *C. ramosum* 2; *C. septicum* 3. *C. perfringens*, F 28y with abruptio placentae and F 71y with parotitis (both blood isolates). *C. septicum*, immunocompromised M 2y with leukaemia (blood isolate).

***Eikenella corrodens*:** M 29y with kidney transplant (blood isolate). Also reported: F 73y with recurrent sinusitis (antral washout isolate).

***Eubacterium lentum*:** F 90y with pressure sore (blood isolate). **Anaerobic cocci:** M 14y with recurrent otitis media, osteomyelitis and lateral sinus thrombosis (blood isolate).

Laboratory reports	Total bacteraemia	Gastrointestinal tract	Biliary tract (ERCP)	UTI/GU (pregnant)	Ischaemic/pressure sores
<i>Bacteroides sp</i>	72	10	5 (–)	8 (–)	4
<i>Clostridium sp</i>	27	2	2 (–)	1 (–)	3
Anaerobic cocci	12	1	1 (–)	1 (–)	–

***Acinetobacter sp* 18:** *A. calcoaceticus (anitratu)* 4; *A. junii* 1; *A. Iwoffii* 5; *Acinetobacter sp* 1. *Acinetobacter sp*, F 64y with prosthetic aortic valve (blood isolate).

***Aeromonas sp* 7:** *A. hydrophila* 5; *A. sobria* 1. Also reported: *A. hydrophila*, F 46y (eye isolate).

***Alcaligenes sp* 3:** M 40y with hepatic encephalopathy and

F 81y following ERCP (both blood isolates).

***Pseudomonas sp*:** *P. acidovorans* 1; *P. aeruginosa* 99; *P. diminuta* 1; *P. fluorescens* 5; *P. maltophilia* 7; *P. paucimobilis* 1; *P. putida* 1; *P. stutzeri* 1; *P. vesicularis* 2. *P. aeruginosa*, M 1m on ventilator had multiple surgery; HIV-1 antibody positive M 29y; M 67y and M 78y with Whipple's disease; F 16y with epiglottitis;

Laboratory reports	Total bacteraemia	UTI/GU (pregnant)	Burns	Intravascular lines	Leukaemia/bone marrow suppression (IV-lines)
<i>Acinetobacter sp</i>	18	1 (-)	-	1	7 (4)
<i>Aeromonas sp</i>	7	-	-	-	3 (-)
<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	130	12 (-)	-	8	31 (-)
<i>Serratia sp</i>	16	2 (-)	-	-	1 (-)

M 18y had bone marrow transplant; F 18y and F 49y had liver transplants; M 42y (with AIDS), M 64y, M 77y, F 20y, F 26y and F 69y with lymphoma; M 4y, M 12y, M 74y, F 31y, F 40y, and male, age not stated, with leukaemia; M 60y, M 73y and M 83y with myeloma; F 75y on steroids; F 46y on chemotherapy (all blood isolates). Also reported: M 65y with corneal ulcer (eye isolate).

Serratia sp: *S. liquefaciens* 4; *S. marcescens* 8; *S. marinorubra* 3. *S. marcescens*, M 43y with nephrotic syndrome, M 63y following

multiple trauma and M 64y with pancreatitis (all blood isolates). *Veillonella sp* 2 (both blood isolates).

Meningitis

Acinetobacter sp 2: *A. baumannii*, F 2y after craniotomy (blood and CSF isolates). *C. calcoaceticus (anitratu)*, M 65y after neurosurgery for glioma (CSF isolate).

Unusual infections

Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans: M 30y had endocarditis (blood isolate).

Bacillus sphaericus: F 48y with sacral abscess (blood isolate).

Branhamella catarrhalis: immunosuppressed F 75y (blood isolate; *Peptostreptococcus* also isolated).

Capnocytophaga sp 2: *C. canimorsus*, M 38y, injecting drug user, had aseptic meningitis (blood isolate). *Capnocytophaga sp*, M 77y with leukaemia (blood isolate).

Cedecea sp: M 80y with paraplegia had urinary tract infection (blood isolate; *Escherichia coli* also isolated).

Corynebacterium sp 2: *C. jeikeium*, M 70y with leukaemia (blood isolate). *Corynebacterium sp*, F 28y (blood isolate).

Providencia sp 4: *P. alcalifaciens*, M 70y (blood isolate). *P. rettgeri*, M 86y (blood isolate). *P. stuartii*, M 72y (blood isolate) and F 79y (blood and urine isolates) both had urinary tract infections.

Imported infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/45 – 48

Arbovirus: Dengue virus 1 (Maldives); Flavivirus 1 (India); Hantaan virus 2.

Hookworms 27 (Bangladesh, India, 1 each).

Plasmodium sp 74: *P. falciparum* 12 (Ghana 3, Nigeria 2, East Africa, Kenya, 1 each) including M 56y from Ghana with

P. malariae also; *P. ovale* 2; *P. vivax* 59 (India 3, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, 1 each).

Schistosoma sp 3: *S. haematobium* 2 (Africa 2); *S. mansoni* 1.

Strongyloides sp 5 (Africa, Ghana, Uganda, 1 each).

Opportunist infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/45 – 48

Actinomyces sp 2: *A. israelii*, F 43y with IUCD. *Actinomyces sp*, F 23y with IUCD.

Aspergillus sp 8: *A. fumigatus* 6; *Aspergillus sp* 2. *A. fumigatus*, M 44y with renal transplant (sputum isolate). *Aspergillus sp*, F 20y with liver transplant (blood isolate).

Candida sp 24: *C. albicans* 14; *C. krusei* 2; *C. parapsilosis* 4; *C. tropicalis* 2. Six patients were immunocompromised; 2 had bone marrow transplants; 2 had leukaemia; and one was on cytotoxic drugs. Seven patients had IV-lines, including F 64y with pancreatitis and M 26y with thalassaemia major.

Cryptococcus sp 5: *C. neoformans*, 4 male patients were HIV-1

antibody positive (1 blood and CSF isolates, 3 CSF isolates only).

Malassezia furfur 1: F 4m with cystic fibrosis and intestinal infection (blood isolate).

Nocardia sp 1: M 56y (skin isolate).

Pneumocystis carinii 16: M 5m with leukaemia, M 34y and M 37y had heart transplants and M 71y with lymphoma (all sputum/BAL isolates).

Torulopsis sp 5: *T. glabrata* 4. Two patients had IV-lines; F 31y on haemodialysis; F 71y had leukaemia (all blood isolates).

From week 91/01, data in CDR is from England and Wales only, unless otherwise stated.

Weekly numbers are provisional and should not be used to indicate trends