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Shigella sonnei infection with an unusual phage type in London

CDSC London has received reports of ten cases of *Shigella sonnei* infection since 1 May with the same unusual phage type and resistance pattern (ampicillin, streptomycin, sulphonamide, spectinomycin, tetracycline, and trimethoprim) mainly in men aged 27 to 51 years and scattered over London. A number have been diagnosed at genitourinary clinics. CDSC London would be grateful to hear about further cases with this resistance pattern and will be contacting CCDCs with a view to investigating potential links between the cases. Contact Helen Maguire, regional epidemiologist, or Jane Jones, senior registrar, at CDSC London (tel: 020 7725 2734).

There were 695 laboratory reports of *Shigella sonnei* infection with all phage types in England and Wales in 2000, compared with 907 in 1999 and 878 in 1998. In 1998 and 1999 the incidence was significantly higher in females than males and the age specific rate was highest in children aged 1 to 4 years and adults aged 25 to 29 years (1).

1. CDSC. *Shigella sonnei* in England and Wales, 1998 and 1999. *Commun Dis Rep CDR Wkly* 2000; **10** (32): 287.

Electronic CDR Weekly – progress report

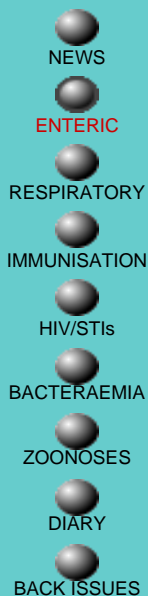
CDR Weekly is now in its sixth month as an electronic serial. We are emailing pdf files to around 790 recipients and alerting over 150 others. This is over and above the distribution within the PHLS. It is not currently possible to assess the number of hits on the *CDR* section of the PHLS website.

The most common topic for emails to the *CDR* is the non-arrival of emailed pdf files. About ten per cent of emails bounce back every week for various reasons, some obvious and some not. So far we have managed to send out the email files on the day of publication, except on two occasions when we expected to update a news story the following morning. The *CDR* site has always been updated on schedule on Thursday afternoon (Friday on bank holiday weeks). So, if you expect an email file and have not received it by Friday morning it is probably worth visiting the site (if you have internet access) or letting us know that the file has not arrived. The latter action also lets us check that we have your correct address and have no problems linking with it. If you know of colleagues at home or abroad who would like an alert or a pdf file sent, ask them to email us and we will add them to the list.

We have tried to address previous problems to which we have been alerted, including shortening the url, and clarifying links both to back issues for both the electronic *CDR Weekly* and to copies from 1991 to 2000, and archive data within the *CDR* site.

We always welcome comments on the electronic *CDR Weekly*, which should be sent to the deputy editor Neil Hough at nough@phls.org.uk.

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General outbreaks of foodborne illness, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 19-22/01

Health authority	Organism	Place of outbreak	Month of outbreak	Number ill	Cases positive	Suspect vehicle	Evidence
Kingston and Richmond	<i>Salmonella enteritidis</i> PT5A	Restaurant	May	2	2	–	–
Wales	<i>S. oranienburg</i>	Mobile retailer	May	5	5	Hog roast	D
National	<i>S. typhimurium</i> DT69	–	April	21	21	–	–

D (descriptive): other evidence, usually descriptive, reported by local investigations as indicating the suspect vehicle;

Salmonella infections (faecal specimens), England and Wales: reports to the PHLS (salmonella data set*)

Details of serotypes of the 734 salmonella infections recorded in April 2001 are given in the table below. In May 2001, 860 salmonella infections were recorded and preliminary information was received about three outbreak (see table above).

* figures quoted from the PHLS salmonella data set are for isolates confirmed and typed by PHLS Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens (LEP)

	April 2001
Salmonella (provisional total)	734
S. enteritidis (PT4)	165
S. enteritidis (other PTs)	239
S. typhimurium	106
S. virchow	20
Other (typed)	204

Common gastrointestinal infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 19-22/01

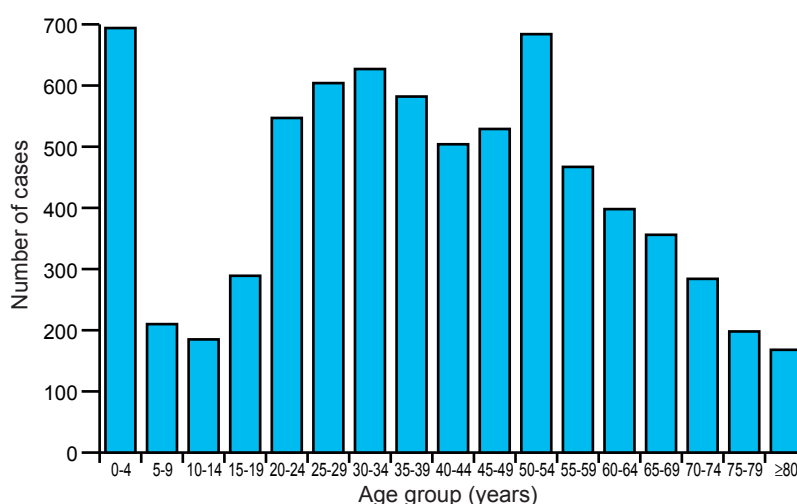
	Number of reports received				Total reports	Cumulative reports	
	19/01	20/01	21/01	22/01	19-22/01	2001	2000
Laboratory reports							
<i>Campylobacter</i>	796	724	1377	1002	3899	19402	19399
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157*	13	12	16	8	49	150	185
<i>Shigella sonnei</i>	18	17	32	22	89	350	286
Rotavirus	778	528	649	452	2407	11064	13792
SRSV	107	26	34	75	242	995	1191
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	45	25	55	33	158	1068	1727
<i>Giardia</i>	56	63	57	60	236	1283	1571

* Vero cytotoxin producing isolates (data from LEP)

Campylobacter Sentinel Surveillance Scheme

In the first year of the campylobacter sentinel surveillance scheme (1), standardised questionnaires were received for 7360 laboratory confirmed cases of campylobacter infection from 21 sentinel health authorities in England and Wales. Cases ranged in age from less than one month to 99 years (mean 39 years; figure) and the gender distribution was even.

Figure Age distribution of cases



Diarrhoea (95%), abdominal pain (85%), and fever (78%) were the most commonly reported symptoms, although vomiting (35%) and bloody stools (27%) also featured in the clinical picture. Cases were ill for a total of 79090 days (mean 11 days) and 732 patients (10%) required admission to hospital for at least 3048 days (mean 5 days). Five thousand one hundred and seven cases were off work or unable to undertake their normal activities for a total of 38769 days (mean 8 days).

A fifth of cases (20%) reported travel abroad in the two weeks prior to the onset of symptoms, and 14% had travelled within the United Kingdom (1% of cases did both). Raw milk was consumed by 9% of cases and 1% reported drinking bird-pecked milk. Seven per cent reported drinking water from a private water supply and 3% had consumed river, stream, or spring water. Animal contact was reported by over half (57%) of the cases and 10% of cases reported visiting a farm.

During the same time period 9655 isolates, referred from 14 PHLs and 22 NHS laboratories, were processed by the Campylobacter Reference Unit. Where it was possible to grow and characterise the referred culture (96%), *Campylobacter jejuni* accounted for the majority of cases (91.9%), with *C. coli* (7.9%), *C. lari* (0.1%) and *C. fetus* (0.04%) also reported. Fifty six different serotypes and 73 phage types were reported, creating 473 sero-phage types (making 99% of isolates typable by at least one method). Resistance to at least one antibiotic was reported in just over half (51%) of isolates and 94 different resistance patterns were observed. Almost a fifth (19%) of isolates were resistant to ciprofloxacin whereas only 1% was resistant to erythromycin. Overall, the most common isolate was fully sensitive *C. jejuni* HS50 PT5 (268 isolates).

A combined epidemiological and microbiological dataset (3897 entries; 53% linkage) has been produced, allowing the generation of species-specific and subspecies-specific hypotheses for infection (table).

Table Speciation in relation to destination for those cases travelling abroad in the fortnight prior to illness

Destination classification	Species		Number of isolates
	<i>C. jejuni</i>	<i>C. coli</i>	
Spain	238	26	264
France	52	5	57
Africa	35	8	43
India	31	10	41
Portugal	39	1	40
Pakistan	26	10	36
Other Asian countries	26	1	27
Greece	27	–	27
Turkey	21	3	24
Cyprus	20	–	20
Other destinations	653	76	729
Total	653	76	729

Thanks are extended to all PHLS, NHS and Environmental Health staff taking part in the scheme. More detailed analyses will be published in the near future.

1. CDSC. Sentinel surveillance of campylobacter in England and Wales. *Commun Dis Rep CDR Wkly* 2000; **10** (19):169, 172

Salmonella serotypes recorded in the PHLS salmonella data set: January to March 2001

All serotypes recorded in the PHLS salmonella data set in the first quarter of 2001 are listed below. There were more than ten reports of 18 serotypes, two to ten reports of 42 serotypes, and one report of 52 serotypes.

	January to March 2001 (provisional)
<i>S. agona</i>	16
<i>S. arizonae</i>	11
<i>S. bareilly</i>	13
<i>S. braenderup</i>	13
<i>S. enteritidis</i>	844
<i>S. hadar</i>	37
<i>S. heidelberg</i>	13
<i>S. indiana</i>	41
<i>S. infantis</i>	20
<i>S. java</i>	27
<i>S. kottbus</i>	19
<i>S. montevideo</i>	29
<i>S. newport</i>	34
<i>S. oranienburg</i>	11
<i>S. panama</i>	19
<i>S. stanley</i>	12
<i>S. typhimurium</i>	323
<i>S. virchow</i>	58
Others (unnamed)	38
Others (typed)	220
Salmonella (total)	1798

Two to ten reports of each of the following serotypes were received:

(2)	<i>S. ajiobo</i>	(2)	<i>S. manhattan</i>
(2)	<i>S. albany</i>	(4)	<i>S. mbandaka</i>
(7)	<i>S. anatum</i>	(2)	<i>S. menston</i>
(2)	<i>S. berta</i>	(5)	<i>S. mississippi</i>
(10)	<i>S. blockley</i>	(6)	<i>S. muenchen</i>
(2)	<i>S. bovis-morbificans</i>	(3)	<i>S. ohio</i>
(5)	<i>S. bredeney</i>	(9)	<i>S. oslo</i>
(2)	<i>S. chester</i>	(2)	<i>S. pomona</i>
(4)	<i>S. derby</i>	(7)	<i>S. poona</i>
(2)	<i>S. eastbourne</i>	(5)	<i>S. reading</i>
(2)	<i>S. emek</i>	(2)	<i>S. ridge</i>
(2)	<i>S. give</i>	(5)	<i>S. rissen</i>
(4)	<i>S. gold-coast</i>	(3)	<i>S. rubislaw</i>
(2)	<i>S. grumpensis</i>	(9)	<i>S. saint-paul</i>
(2)	<i>S. haifa</i>	(2)	<i>S. san-diego</i>
(2)	<i>S. hvitvingfoss</i>	(6)	<i>S. schwarzengrund</i>
(8)	<i>S. javiana</i>	(4)	<i>S. senftenberg</i>
(2)	<i>S. kedougou</i>	(2)	<i>S. teko</i>
(7)	<i>S. kentucky</i>	(2)	<i>S. tel-el-kebir</i>
(2)	<i>S. kiambu</i>	(5)	<i>S. thompson</i>
(2)	<i>S. larochelle</i>	(2)	<i>S. uganda</i>
(3)	<i>S. livingstone</i>	(5)	<i>S. weltevreden</i>

One report of each of the following serotypes was received:

<i>S. abony</i>	<i>S. brandenburg</i>	<i>S. galiema</i>	<i>S. malstatt</i>	<i>S. rhodesiense</i>
<i>S. adelaide</i>	<i>S. brezany</i>	<i>S. hato</i>	<i>S. mikawasima</i>	<i>S. richmond</i>
<i>S. agama</i>	<i>S. butanton</i>	<i>S. havana</i>	<i>S. millesi</i>	<i>S. stanleyville</i>
<i>S. altona</i>	<i>S. chameleon</i>	<i>S. hull</i>	<i>S. minnesota</i>	<i>S. stourbridge</i>
<i>S. amsterdam</i>	<i>S. chandans</i>	<i>S. johannesburg</i>	<i>S. nairobi</i>	<i>S. wandsworth</i>
<i>S. anecho</i>	<i>S. corvallis</i>	<i>S. kingston</i>	<i>S. newington</i>	<i>S. wangata</i>
<i>S. arechavaleta</i>	<i>S. dar-es-salaam</i>	<i>S. kinshasa</i>	<i>S. norwich</i>	<i>S. wassanaar</i>
<i>S. berkeley</i>	<i>S. dunkwa</i>	<i>S. krefeld</i>	<i>S. offa</i>	<i>S. waycross</i>
<i>S. bignona</i>	<i>S. durham</i>	<i>S. liverpool</i>	<i>S. okatie</i>	<i>S. wentworth</i>
<i>S. binza</i>	<i>S. ealing</i>	<i>S. london</i>	<i>S. onireke</i>	<i>S. wien</i>
<i>S. brancaster</i>	<i>S. ebrie</i>			

General outbreaks¹ of foodborne illness, England and Wales: laboratory reports, October to December 2000

Health authority	Organism	Place of outbreak	Number ill ²	Cases positive	Suspect vehicle ³	Evidence ⁴
Bradford	<i>Salmonella blockley</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Plymouth	<i>S. enteritidis</i> PT1B	Restaurant	9	9	–	–
NE Lincolnshire	<i>S. enteritidis</i> PT4	Residential institution	21	20	Bread and butter pudding with meringue topping	M
Preston	<i>S. enteritidis</i> PT4	School	21	21	–	–
Blackpool	<i>S. enteritidis</i> PT4	Restaurant	3	3	–	–
Blackpool	<i>S. enteritidis</i> PT4	Hotel	2	2	–	–
Carrick	<i>S. enteritidis</i> PT6A	Hotel	14	9	Cooked turkey	S
Haringey	<i>S. enteritidis</i> PT25	Restaurant	20	20	Various	M
London	<i>S. indiana</i>	Community	25	25	–	–
Plymouth	<i>S. kottbus</i>	Restaurant	5	5	Turkey	M
Cornwall	<i>S. montevideo</i>	Hotel	32	32	–	–
Hereford	<i>S. typhimurium</i> DT193A	Mobile retailer	2	2	Sausage and egg sandwich	D
Exeter	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	Canteen	30	–	Soup with cream	M,S
Lancaster	Campylobacter	Restaurant	20	20	–	–
Blackpool	Campylobacter	Private house	4	4	Home-made chicken liver pâté	M
Bracknell	Campylobacter	Restaurant	4	3	Lemon chicken, duck	D
Pendle	SRSV	Restaurant	13	2	–	–
North Cornwall	SRSV	Restaurant	4	–	Oysters	M
Suffolk Coastal	SRSV	Public house	20	3	Buffet	D
Plymouth	SRSV	Hospital	106	6	Salad and rolls	D
Ipswich	SRSV	Restaurant	10	4	Various set meals	D
Havering	SRSV	Restaurant	40	2	Buffet	–
Winchester	Unknown	Club	25	–	Buffet lunch	–
Fylde	Unknown	Residential institution	8	–	–	–
Canterbury	Unknown	Restaurant	9	–	Oysters	D
Windsor and Maidenhead	Unknown	Restaurant	6	–	Turkey	D
Canterbury	Unknown	Restaurant	5	–	Oysters	D
Windsor and Maidenhead	Unknown	Hotel	7	–	–	–
Wirral	Unknown	Retailer	3	–	–	–

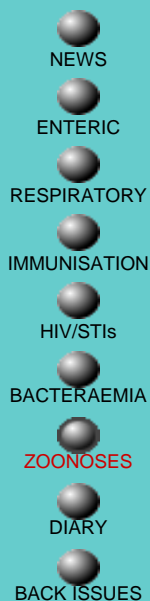
1. General outbreaks involve members of more than one household; 2. The number known to be ill; 3. Local investigations may not provide conclusive evidence of vehicles of infection. Vehicles are therefore designated 'suspect'; 4. M (microbiological): identification of an organism of the same type from cases and in the suspect vehicle, or vehicle ingredient(s), or detection of toxin in faeces or food. S (statistical): a significant statistical association between consumption of the suspect vehicle(s) and being a case. D (descriptive): other evidence, usually descriptive, reported by local investigations as indicating the suspect vehicle; * not applicable. NA: not available.

Outbreaks¹ of salmonella infection: January to March 2001

Outbreak type	<i>S. enteritidis</i>		<i>S. typhimurium</i>	Other serotypes	Total
	Phage type 4	Other phage types			
General ²	–	2	2	2	6
Household ³	4	13	11	14	42
Acquired abroad ⁴	1	1	1	1	4
Total	5	16	14	17	52

1. An 'outbreak' represents two or more related laboratory confirmed infections in humans of whom at least one was ill, or two or more related cases of illness in humans of whom at least one had confirmed infection with salmonella; 2. 'General outbreak' involves members of more than one household; 3. 'Family outbreaks' involve members of one household only; 4. Family and general outbreaks in which infection was acquired outside England and Wales.

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[Common imported infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 18-21/01](#)

Common animal associated infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 18-21/01

Organism	Total reports for weeks 18-21/01		Cumulative totals for weeks 01-21	
	2001*	2000	2001*	2000
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> **#	4	6	15	23
<i>Leptospira hardjo</i> **##	–	–	2	1
<i>Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae</i> **##	–	–	4	4
<i>Leptospira other</i> **##	–	1	11	9
<i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i>	1	1	2	1
<i>Pasteurella multocida</i>	16	29	113	99
<i>Pasteurella pneumotropica</i>	–	–	2	–
<i>Pasteurella spp</i>	6	5	23	19
<i>Toxocara canis</i>	–	–	–	1
<i>Toxocara cati</i>	–	–	–	–
<i>Toxocara spp</i>	–	–	–	–
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	4	3	12	11
<i>Toxoplasma spp</i>	–	2	25	24

* provisional data; ** by specimen date; # Lyme Disease Reference Laboratory and CDSC; ## Leptospira Reference Laboratory and CDSC

Common imported infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 18-21/01

Organism	Total reports for weeks 18-21/01		Cumulative totals for weeks 01-21	
	2001*	2000	2001*	2000
Arbovirus	–	–	–	–
Dengue virus	–	–	–	–
<i>Ascaris spp</i>	13	9	48	39
Hookworm (unspecified)	9	1	18	20
<i>Ancylostoma duodenale</i>	–	–	–	–
<i>Necator americanus</i>	–	–	–	–
<i>Leptospira sp</i>	–	1	–	3
<i>Hymenolepis diminuta</i>	–	–	–	1
<i>Hymenolepis nana</i>	6	–	12	3
<i>Hymenolepis sp</i>	–	–	–	–
<i>Schistosoma haematobium</i>	7	4	21	21
<i>Schistosoma intercalatum</i>	–	–	–	–
<i>Schistosoma mansoni</i>	1	2	8	4
<i>Schistosoma sp</i>	–	10	9	18
<i>Strongyloides stercoralis</i>	1	1	14	4
<i>Strongyloides sp</i>	1	1	1	2

* provisional data