

! Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*)

Merlin reporting code = 02400
Case report form (CRF): N/A
NO CRF REQUIRED

Clinical description

The types of infection include localized, pus forming cutaneous infections, pulmonary infections, bloodstream infections, and chronic suppurative infections of the skin. Generalized symptoms of glanders include fever, muscle aches, chest pain, muscle tightness, and headache. Additional symptoms have included excessive tearing of the eyes, light sensitivity, and diarrhea.

- Localized infections: if there is a cut or scratch in the skin, a localized infection with ulceration will develop within 1 to 5 days at the site where the bacteria entered the body. Swollen lymph nodes may also be apparent. Infections involving the mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, and respiratory tract will cause increased mucous production from the affected sites.
- Pulmonary infections: in pulmonary infections, pneumonia, pulmonary abscesses, and pleural effusion can occur. Chest X-rays will show localized infection in the lobes of the lungs.
- Bloodstream infections: glanders bloodstream infections are usually fatal within 7 to 10 days.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Isolation of *Burkholderia mallei* from blood, sputum, urine, or skin lesions. Serologic assays are not available.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory evidence.

Comments

 **Isolates from all cases must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories. This condition has been identified as a potential bioterrorism agent by the CDC.**

[Return to Table of Contents](#)