

! Brucellosis

Merlin reporting code = 02300
 Case report form (CRF): [Brucellosis CRF](#)
MERLIN EXTENDED DATA REQUIRED

Clinical description

A pleomorphic illness generally characterized by acute or insidious onset of intermittent or persistent fever. Other symptoms may include night sweats, arthralgia, fatigue, anorexia, weight loss, headache, myalgia, endocarditis, orchitis, epididymitis, hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, abdominal pain, arthritis, meningitis and/or spondylitis. Pain in a single joint may be present in chronic infections; a single tissue abscess, and aneurysm in large blood vessels has also been reported.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:

- Isolation of *Brucella* sp. from a clinical specimen
- OR
- Fourfold or greater rise in *Brucella* agglutination titer between acute- and convalescent-phase serum specimens obtained ≥ 2 weeks apart and studied at the same laboratory.

Presumptive:

- *Brucella* total antibody titer ≥ 160 by standard tube agglutination test (SAT) or *Brucella* microagglutination test (BMAT) in one or more serum specimens obtained after onset of symptoms
- OR
- Detection of *Brucella* DNA in a clinical specimen by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with confirmatory laboratory evidence.

Probable:

- A clinically compatible illness in a person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case
- OR
- A clinically compatible illness in a person with presumptive laboratory evidence.

Comments

Exposure risk factors include involvement with slaughtering, dressing, or butchering of potentially infected animals such as feral hogs, consumption of unpasteurized dairy products or undercooked meat from infected animals, and laboratory exposure to *Brucella* culture without using aerosol precautions. Follow-up should occur to identify any potential exposures among laboratory staff.

- ✉ **Any available isolates of the organism must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories for confirmation and speciation. This condition has been identified as a potential bioterrorism agent by the CDC.**

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