

Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B Poisoning

Merlin reporting code = 38200
Case report form (CRF): N/A
NO CRF REQUIRED

Clinical description

Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB) is an exotoxin produced by *Staphylococcus aureus*. Clinical signs include nonspecific flu-like symptoms.

- General symptoms: Fever, chills, headache, myalgia, conjunctival injection, varying degrees of prostration, potentially septic shock, or death.
- Aerosolized exposure: Nonproductive cough for up to 4 weeks, retrosternal chest pain, and shortness of breath.
- Ingestion exposure: Nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

N/A

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness that is diagnosed by clinical signs and epidemiology. SEB may be found in blood, urine, respiratory secretions, or nasal swabs for a short period of time. The toxin is detected by ELISA and chemiluminescence tests. Specimens that are suspected of containing the toxin should be sent immediately to the state laboratory.

Comments

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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)