



Merlin disease code: 00513 Botulism, Wound

[Paper case report form](#) required



Specimens (food or clinical) must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories and must be cleared through the Bureau of Epidemiology (850) 245-4401.

No Merlin extended data

This condition has been identified as a potential bioterrorism agent by the CDC.

Clinical criteria for case classification

An illness resulting from toxin produced by *Clostridium botulinum* that has infected a wound. Common symptoms are diplopia, blurred vision, and bulbar weakness. Symmetric paralysis may progress rapidly.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- Detection of botulinum toxin in serum
- **Or** isolation of *Clostridium botulinum* from wound.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

A person with both of the following:

- No suspected exposure to contaminated food
- **And** either of the following:
 - A history of a fresh, contaminated wound during the 2 weeks before onset of symptoms
 - **Or** a history of injection drug use within the 2 weeks before onset of symptoms.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory criteria and epidemiological criteria

Probable:

A clinically compatible illness in a person who epidemiological criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Note that this is one of the few diseases in which an epi-linked case without laboratory confirmation is considered confirmed.

Heptavalent botulinum antitoxin is available through the Bureau of Epidemiology at (850) 245-4401, 24 hours per day.