

Merlin disease code: 98809 Ciguatera Fish Poisoning

[Paper case report form](#)
Merlin extended data required

Clinical criteria for case classification

Symptoms include abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, numbness and paresthesia of lips and tongue, paresthesias of the extremities, metallic taste, arthralgia, myalgia, blurred vision. Paradoxical temperature sensation is sometimes seen. The illness is associated with the consumption of reef or bottom-dwelling fish such as barracuda, amberjack, grouper, or snapper.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Detection of ciguatoxin in implicated fish is strongly suggestive, but is not necessary for case confirmation.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

A person with a history of fish consumption in the 24 hours before onset of symptoms.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with epidemiologic criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Even single sporadic cases should be reported as a single-case outbreak to the regional environmental epidemiologist. Testing for the toxin in implicated fish is available from the FDA. Contact your [Regional Environmental Epidemiologist](#) for information.