



Merlin disease code: 98800 Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning

No paper case report form

No Merlin extended data

Clinical criteria for case classification

Onset is within a few minutes to a few hours after consumption of epidemiologically implicated shellfish (typically clams, mussels, oysters, whelks and certain gastropods). Symptoms include tingling and numbness of lips, mouth, fingers, and toes; muscular aches; ataxia, and dizziness and usually accompanied by diarrhea, vomiting and/or nausea. Symptoms sometimes include reversal of hot and cold sensations; pupil dilation; and respiratory distress. Illness is self-limited and generally milder than paralytic shellfish poisoning; some patients have required ICU support for respiratory distress. Duration is from a few hours to a few days.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Detection of toxin (brevetoxin) in epidemiologically implicated shellfish.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- A person who consumed shellfish with a positive laboratory finding (brevetoxin)
- **Or** a person who consumed shellfish from areas where other toxic shellfish have been found or where red tide is documented (shellfish beds closed in region by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services).

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with epidemiological criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Contact your [Regional Environmental Epidemiologist](#) for information.