Scombroid Poisoning

Merlin disease code= 91000
Case report forms (CRFs): None
NO CRF REQUIRED

Background
Symptoms of scombroid poisoning include tingling or burning in or around the mouth or throat, rash, hives, itching of the skin, drop in blood pressure, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, asthmatic-like constriction of air passages, heart palpitations, and respiratory distress. Symptoms can occur within a few minutes to a few hours of consumption and last from 12 hours to a few days and occur after consumption of fish known to produce histamine.

Clinical criteria for case classification
One or more of the following symptoms:
• Tingleing or burning in or around mouth or throat,
• Or Rash,
• Or Hives,
• Or Itching,
• Or Drop in blood pressure,
• Or Headache,
• Or Dizziness,
• Or Nausea,
• Or Vomiting,
• Or Diarrhea,
• Or Asthmatic-like constriction of air passages,
• Or Heart palpitations,
• Or Respiratory distress.

Laboratory criteria for case classification
Not applicable.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification
A person with a history of consuming fish known to produce histamine in the 2 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 Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contact your Regional Environmental Epidemiologist for information.

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