

Merlin disease code: 91000 Scombroid Poisoning

No paper case report form

No Merlin extended data

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: tingling or burning in or around mouth or throat, rash, hives, itching, drop in blood pressure, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, asthmatic-like constriction of air passages, heart palpitations, 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.