

positive, spore-producing bacilli Incubation: 8 to 24 hours		Fever, nausea, and vomiting are rare Duration of illness usually 24 hours	meats and poultry Usually self-limiting and medical intervention not needed Oral rehydration usually sufficient Antibiotics serve no purpose and should not be used
<i>Clostridium botulinum</i> Gram-positive anaerobic spore-producing bacilli Incubation: 12 to 26 hours (range, 6 hours to 8 days) Diagnosis: To detect toxin, submit blood and stool culture to special laboratory (usually state health department)	Botulism caused by binding of toxin to the neuromuscular junction	Clinical presentation related to age and the strain of the botulism GI—abdominal pain, cramping, and diarrhea Other strains—respiratory compromise, CNS symptoms	Transmitted in contaminated food products Can be acquired via wound infection Treatment is supportive care and neutralization of the toxin
<i>Staphylococcus</i> organisms Gram-positive nonmotile, aerobic or facultative anaerobic bacteria Incubation: Generally short, 1 to 8 hours Diagnosis: Identify organism in food, blood, pus, aspirate	Direct tissue invasion and production of toxin	Clinical presentation dependent on site of entry In food poisoning, profuse diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting	Transmitted in inadequately cooked or refrigerated foods Self-limiting Symptomatic treatment

CNS, Central nervous system; EIA, enzyme immunoassay; ELISA, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; GI, gastrointestinal.

Chronic diarrhea is an increase in stool frequency and increased water content with a duration of more than 14 days. It is often caused by chronic conditions, such as malabsorption syndromes, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), immunodeficiency, food allergy, lactose intolerance, or chronic nonspecific diarrhea (CNSD), or as a result of inadequate management of acute diarrhea.

Intractable diarrhea of infancy is a syndrome that occurs in the first few months of life, persists for longer than 2 weeks with no recognized pathogens, and is refractory to treatment. The most common cause is acute infectious diarrhea that was not managed adequately.

Chronic nonspecific diarrhea (CNSD), also known as *irritable colon of childhood* and *toddlers' diarrhea*, is a common cause of chronic