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Botulism (Clostridium botulinum) 1990 Case Definition | CDC  
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Botulism (  
Clostridium botulinum  
)  
1990 Case Definition  
Botulism (  
Clostridium botulinum  
)  
1990 Case Definition  
NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
Subtype(s)  
Botulism, foodborne  
Botulism, infant  
Botulism, wound  
Botulism, other  
Subtype(s) Case Definition  
Expand All  
Botulism, foodborne  
Clinical Description  
Ingestion of botulinal toxin results in an illness of variable severity. Common symptoms are diplopia, blurred vision, and bulbar weakness. Symmetric paralysis may progress rapidly.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Detection of botulinal toxin in serum, stool, or patient's food,  
OR  
Isolation of  
Clostridium botulinum  
from stool  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed or that occurs among persons who ate the same food as persons with laboratory-confirmed botulism  
Comments  
Botulism may be diagnosed without laboratory confirmation if the clinical and epidemiologic evidence is overwhelming.  
Botulism, infant  
Clinical Description  
An illness of infants, characterized by constipation, poor feeding, and "failure to thrive" that may be followed by progressive weakness, impaired respiration, and death.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Detection of botulinal toxin in stool,  
OR  
Isolation of  
Clostridium botulinum  
from stool  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible, laboratory-confirmed illness occurring among children less than 1 year of age  
Botulism, wound  
Clinical Description  
An illness resulting from toxin produced by  
Clostridium botulinum  
that has infected a wound.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Detection of botulinal toxin in serum,  
OR  
Isolation of  
Clostridium botulinum  
from wound  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed among patients with no suspect food exposure and with a history of a fresh, contaminated wound in the 2 weeks before onset of symptoms  
Botulism, other  
Clinical Description  
See Botulism, foodborne.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Detection of botulinal toxin in clinical specimen,  
OR  
Isolation of  
Clostridium botulinum  
from clinical specimen  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
An illness clinically compatible with botulism that is laboratory confirmed among patients greater than 11 months of age, without histories of ingestion of suspect food, and without wounds  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Botulism (  
Clostridium botulinum  
) | 2011 Case Definition  
Botulism (  
Clostridium botulinum  
) | 1996 Case Definition  
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NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
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