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Botulism (Clostridium botulinum) 1996 Case Definition | CDC  
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Botulism (  
Clostridium botulinum  
)  
1996 Case Definition  
Botulism (  
Clostridium botulinum  
)  
1996 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 botulinum 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 botulinum toxin in serum, stool, or patient's food,  
OR  
Isolation of  
Clostridium botulinum  
from stool  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A clinically compatible case with an epidemiologic link (e.g., ingestion of a home-canned food within the previous 48 hours)  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed or that occurs among persons who ate the same food as persons who have laboratory-confirmed botulism  
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 botulinum toxin in stool or serum,  
OR  
Isolation of  
Clostridium botulinum  
from stool  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is laboratory-confirmed, occurring in a child aged less than 1 year  
Botulism, wound  
Clinical Description  
An illness resulting from toxin produced by  
Clostridium botulinum  
that has infected a wound. Common symptoms are diplopia, blurred vision, and bulbar weakness. Symmetric paralysis may progress rapidly  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Detection of botulinum toxin in serum,  
OR  
Isolation of  
Clostridium botulinum  
from wound  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed in a patient who has no suspected exposure to contaminated food and who has a history of a fresh, contaminated wound during the 2 weeks before onset of symptoms  
Botulism, other  
Clinical Description  
Common symptoms are diplopia, blurred vision, and bulbar weakness. Symmetric paralysis may progress rapidly.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Detection of botulinum toxin in clinical specimen,  
OR  
Isolation of  
Clostridium botulinum  
from clinical specimen  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed in a patient aged greater than or equal to 1 year who has no history of ingestion of suspect food and has no wounds  
Comments  
The 1996 case definition appearing on this page was re-published in the 2009 CSTE position statement 09-ID-29. Thus, the 1996 and 2010 versions of the case definition are identical.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Botulism (  
Clostridium botulinum  
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