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Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS) (Streptococcus pyogenes) 2010 Case Definition | CDC  
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National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Explore Topics  
Search  
Search  
Clear Input  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View all  
Related Topics:  
NDC Application  
View All  
search  
close search  
search  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Menu  
Close  
search  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Related Topics  
NDC Application  
View All  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
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Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS) (  
Streptococcus pyogenes  
)  
2010 Case Definition  
Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS) (  
Streptococcus pyogenes  
)  
2010 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.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
09-ID-60  
Clinical Description  
Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS) is a severe illness associated with invasive or noninvasive group A streptococcal (  
Streptococcus pyogenes  
) infection. STSS may occur with infection at any site but most often occurs in association with infection of a cutaneous lesion. Signs of toxicity and a rapidly progressive clinical course are characteristic, and the case fatality rate may exceed 50%.  
Clinical Criteria  
An illness with the following clinical manifestations\*:  
Hypotension defined by a systolic blood pressure less than or equal to 90 mm Hg for adults or less than the fifth percentile by age for children aged less than 16 years.  
Multi-organ involvement characterized by two or more of the following:  
Renal impairment: Creatinine greater than or equal to 2 mg/dL (greater than or equal to 177 µmol/L) for adults or greater than or equal to twice the upper limit of normal for age. In patients with preexisting renal disease, a greater than twofold elevation over the baseline level.  
Coagulopathy: Platelets less than or equal to 100,000/mm  
3  
(less than or equal to 100 x 10  
6  
/L) or disseminated intravascular coagulation, defined by prolonged clotting times, low fibrinogen level, and the presence of fibrin degradation products.  
Liver involvement: Alanine aminotransferase, aspartate aminotransferase, or total bilirubin levels greater than or equal to twice the upper limit of normal for the patient's age. In patients with preexisting liver disease, a greater than twofold increase over the baseline level.  
Acute respiratory distress syndrome: defined by acute onset of diffuse pulmonary infiltrates and hypoxemia in the absence of cardiac failure or by evidence of diffuse capillary leak manifested by acute onset of generalized edema, or pleural or peritoneal effusions with hypoalbuminemia.  
A generalized erythematous macular rash that may desquamate.  
Soft-tissue necrosis, including necrotizing fasciitis or myositis, or gangrene.  
\* Clinical manifestations do not need to be detected within the first 48 hours of hospitalization or illness, as specified in the 1996 case definition. The specification of the 48 hour time constraint was for purposes of assessing whether the case was considered nosocomial, not whether it was a case or not.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of group A  
Streptococcus  
.  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A case that meets the clinical case definition in the absence of another identified etiology for the illness and with isolation of group A  
Streptococcus  
from a non-sterile site.  
Confirmed  
A case that meets the clinical case definition and with isolation of group A  
Streptococcus  
from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid or, less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS) (  
Streptococcus pyogenes  
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) | 1995 Case Definition  
Back to Top  
Sources  
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Share  
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LinkedIn  
Twitter  
Syndicate  
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Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
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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.  
View All  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Sign up for Email Updates  
Contact CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
Public Health Publications  
Contact Us  
About CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
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