

RAG

Risk Assessment Group

PRIMARY RISK ASSESSMENT

Botulism of type E likely associated with fish consumption – Germany

Date of the CSA		Public health officers consultation	Method
28/11/2016		Dr S. Quoilin, Dr D. Reynders, Dr. V. Laisnez, Dr C. Schirvel, M. J-M Trémérie, Dr P. Demol, Mme M. Thomas	eMail
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Signal: Event-based information		<p>Germany reported two cases of foodborne botulism BoNT-type E with onset dates in early November in two neighbouring states. Both patients had clinical botulism and stools of both were found positive for botulism neurotoxin type E gene, serum testing is still ongoing. Both patients are adult men with a Russian/Eastern European origin. Both bought and consumed fish from separate locations of the same chain of grocery stores specializing in Russian foods. Given this information Germany believe that the two cases are linked to a common exposure likely to be fish. Further investigations are ongoing.</p> <p>In Spain, two suspected botulism cases have been reported to the National Centre of Epidemiology. The cases (a couple) were Russian nationals with residence in Spain. Onset of symptoms was 5 and 6 November. They have consumed salted fish "Plötze Salz" (<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>). Further investigations are ongoing.</p>
Description		
1	Event	<i>C. botulinum</i> cases in Germany (2) and suspected cases in Spain (2) possibly linked to a common exposure: salted and dried roach sold in the same chain of grocery stores specialized in Russian food. This chain also exist in Belgium, It is therefore likely that the incriminated item has also been distributed in Belgium (RASFF notification 2016.1621).
2	Type of Risk Unusual	<p>Botulism is a rare disease in the EU/EEA with 85 to 137 confirmed cases reported annually in the period 2010-2015. Cases were reported in all age groups with the most cases among 25-44 years-old (32%) and 45-64 years-old (31%). Cases were more common among men than women (male/female ratio 1.3).</p> <p>Cases can be domestically acquired or imported. In Belgium, there was 1 case in 2014, 2 cases in 2015 and 1 case of intoxication and 1 case of infantile botulism in 2016, most often with <i>C. botulinum</i> type B.</p>
3	Severity of the risk (High for patient)	<p>Severe intoxication resulting from the action of paralytic neurotoxins produced by neurotoxinogenic strains of bacteria of the species <i>Clostridium botulinum</i>.</p> <p>Prompt specific treatment with antitoxins required.</p>
4	Exposed population (small)	Costumers of the chain of grocery stores distributing Russian food in Belgium.
5	Risk of dissemination (Low)	<p>Low, by contaminated food.</p> <p><i>C. botulinum</i> type E is usually non proteolytic which means that the contaminated food doesn't smell badly, so people aren't aware of the contamination when they eat the food. In the case of other types of <i>C. botulinum</i> that are proteolytic, the food smells horribly which prevents people eating from it.</p>
Preparedness and response		
6	Preparedness	<p>There is a National Reference Centre in Belgium able to make the diagnosis if suspected case.</p> <p>Belgium does not have a strategic stockpile of antitoxins yet but in case of a suspected case, it is possible to order antitoxins by using an order form available at Centre Antpoisons/Antigif centrum and to send it to: GSK Vaccines GmbH - Emergency Team Emil Von Behringstrasse 76 35041 Marburg Duitsland Phone : 0049-6421 3915 (office hours) Emergency : 00 49 64213860 Delivery in Eu within 24 hours.</p>

		http://www.centreantipoisons.be/professionnels-de-la-sant/articles-pour-professionnels-de-la-sant/botulisme http://www.antigifcentrum.be/medische-professionals/artikels-voor-medische-professionals/botulisme
7	Specific control measures (surveillance, control, communication)	<p>Suspicion of botulism is a disease under mandatory notification, requiring immediate measures; therefore any suspicion has to be notified.</p> <p>FAVV-AFSCA has been informed about this event and has organised the recall of the incriminated product.</p>
Public health impact		
A	Public health impact in Belgium Incident Low	<p>Low risk of large outbreak, having a case is not excluded.</p> <p>Limited distribution.</p>
B	Actions (recommandations for surveillance, control, communication)	<p>Measures in place, immediate recall of incriminated products done.</p> <p>If suspected case or positive food vehicle, immediate communication between health inspectorate, SPF/FOD, FAVV/AFSCA, NRC/NRL, RAG coordinator, and Centre Antipoisons/Antigif centrum.</p>
C	Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional measures.
	Follow up - Mededeling van het FAVV op 02/12/2016	<p>Naar aanleiding van het RASFF-bericht 2016.1621 werd door het FAVV een tracering in de voedselketen opgestart.</p> <p>Het blijkt om slechts 1 operator te gaan. Deze bevindt zich onder de bevoegdheid van de PCE Brussel.</p> <p>Hij kreeg van zijn Duitse leverancier 3 kg van het besmette product.</p> <p>Het product werd niet verkocht en de volledige 3 kg werd uit de markt genomen en naar de leverancier teruggestuurd.</p> <p>De Belgische consument werd dus niet aan het gevaar blootgesteld.</p>
	Status	Event closed