

## **LISTERIOSIS**

Listeriosis is a bacterial disease usually manifested as meningoen­cephalitis and/or septicemia in newborns and adults and as abortion in pregnant women. Onset of meningoen­cephalitis may be subacute but is usually sudden and accompanied by fever, intense headache, nausea, and vomiting. The immunocompetent host who acquires infection may exhibit only an acute, mild, febrile illness, sometimes with influenza-like symptoms. Sporadic cases and occasional epidemics result from foodborne transmission, raw or contaminated milk, soft cheeses, vegetables, and ready to eat meats like paté.

### **Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:**

- Isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid or, less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).
- Microscopic examination of CSF or meconium permits presumptive diagnosis.

### **Case Classification**

*Confirmed:* A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

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### **Epidemiology**

<b>Kentucky 2003</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>	<b>U.S. Rate (2002) per 100,000</b>
Cases 9	0.22	0.24

The cases were from 7 different districts. Four of the cases were in females, five were in males. No cases were connected to any contaminated food source.

The ages of cases of Listeriosis ranged from 24 to 75 years of age. No deaths were reported.