

# Communicable Diseases

## Surveillance of AIDS in Britain: September 1983

Prepared by the Public Health Laboratory Service Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre

Eight reports of patients meeting the diagnostic criteria used by the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre were received during September.

A man with haemophilia died in August 1983 with *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia; a 28 year old homosexual man from London died in September 1983 with gastrointestinal candidiasis; a 21 year old homosexual man from Cardiff was reported to have oesophageal candidiasis; a 37 year old homosexual man from Kent recently developed Kaposi's sarcoma; a 33 year old woman from north-west England died in August 1983 with Kaposi's sarcoma and *P carinii* pneumonia; a 35 year old homosexual man from north-west England was reported with generalised candidiasis and an atypical pneumonia; a 52 year old homosexual man from London had gastrointestinal can-

didiasis, salmonellosis, and encephalopathy; and a 45 year old heterosexual man from the Dominican Republic was found to have Kaposi's sarcoma. Four of the homosexual men had had sexual contact with United States nationals and one with a Caribbean national.

A 22 year old homosexual man with cytomegalovirus infection, previously included in the total, has been withdrawn because the patient was being treated with corticosteroids and therefore does not meet the case definition. The total number of cases in Britain reported to the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre is now 24.

Inquiries are in hand in several suspected cases. Laboratory reports were received of six young men with possible opportunistic infections; none of these patients had evidence of AIDS.

## Illness associated with fish and shellfish in England and Wales, 1981-2

Prepared by the Public Health Laboratory Service Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre and the Food Hygiene and Virus Reference Laboratories

Fish and shellfish poisoning in Britain between 1965 and 1980 was reviewed recently.<sup>1</sup> This report presents a summary of reported outbreaks and cases of illness associated with fish and shellfish in England and Wales 1981-2.

### Methods

Data were obtained from four sources during 1981 and 1982: firstly, from laboratory reports by microbiologists to the Public Health Laboratory Service Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre; secondly, from reports of outbreaks by medical officers for environmental health to the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre; thirdly, from information provided by telephone to the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre by microbiologists, medical officers of environmental health, and environmental health officers; fourthly, from information sent to the Food Hygiene Laboratory and Virus Reference Laboratory, Colindale.

In this report the term "incident" is used to mean either a single sporadic case or an outbreak of two or more related cases. The analysis included single sporadic cases of scombrototoxin poisoning and of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* food poisoning on the assumption that these conditions were due to the consumption of fish or shellfish. Sporadic cases of gastroenteritis associated with canned salmon were also included. No other sporadic cases were reported.

Outbreaks were included if (a) there were two or more clinical cases of laboratory confirmed infections (at least one person ill) in people eating a common foodstuff, and (b) the causative organism was isolated from the foodstuff (or food premises) and was identical to that isolated from the infected people, or people in the same household or group who were uninfected had not consumed the implicated

foodstuff, or the implicated foodstuff was the only common factor to all the cases which could be determined. The number of cases included in each outbreak was the number known to have been ill, whether or not they had been examined microbiologically.

### Results

In 1981 there were 37 reported incidents of fish and shellfish associated illness comprising at least 141 cases and in 1982 91 reported incidents with at least 451 cases (see table).

There was one salmonella outbreak reported in 1981 in which 16 people became ill after a reception at a hotel attended by 87 people; the outbreak was attributed to frozen prawns because only those who ate prawns were affected. *Salmonella bareilly* and *S hindmarsh* were isolated from the affected patients but no food was available for examination.

There were nine single cases of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* food poisoning in 1981 and 14 in 1982, in all of which patients were infected abroad; three were attributed to "seafood" and one each to shellfish and prawns, but in the other 18 the vehicle of infection was not recorded. No outbreaks were reported.

Fifty one incidents of scombrototoxin poisoning were reported in England and Wales in 1981-2 (see table), 13 of which were attributed to the consumption of mackerel. One of these 13 incidents was an outbreak of 22 cases in a canteen where prompt reporting of the episode enabled rapid investigation and withdrawal of the implicated consignment of frozen mackerel fillets and the prevention of further cases. There were nine incidents attributed to canned pilchards, all of which occurred in 1981, 17 incidents attributed to tuna fish, and 12 to other fish.