

## LEGIONELLOSIS - FRANCE (PARIS)

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A ProMED-mail post <<http://www.promedmail.org>>

Date: Thu, 28 Sep 2006

From: ProMED-mail <[promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org)>

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<<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2006/060928.asp#1>>

In early Sep 2006, an outbreak of 26 cases of legionnaire's disease was detected in southeast Paris, by the local health authorities responsible for surveillance (Figure, [for figure, see original URL - Mod.LL]). All patients had symptoms of acute lower respiratory tract infection and tested positive for urinary antigen, indicating a *Legionella pneumophila*\_ serogroup 1 infection. Dates of symptom onset ranged from 28 Jul to 2 Sep 2006. Patients' ages ranged from 21 to 86 years, 85 percent were men, and 2 patients have died.

Local and national health authorities began an epidemiological investigation, interviewing patients using a standard questionnaire. Patients were asked about their activities, including work and leisure, in the 10-day period before the onset of symptoms. The results showed that during this period, all patients had stayed or visited an area in southeast Paris around the Gare d'Austerlitz railway station.

Environmental investigations were carried out in southeast Paris by the local environmental health authorities. All identified cooling towers were tested for legionella, and 4 sites in the defined area were identified as suspect, because positive samples had been taken from their cooling towers during the summer period. All these cooling towers were disinfected.

Isolates obtained from samples from 7 patients were sent to the national legionella reference laboratory, together with the positive samples from the cooling towers, for pulse-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) subtyping. Isolates from 6 patients matched the environmental strains isolated from the cooling towers of 1 of the 4 sites, as assessed by PFGE subtyping. The cooling towers of this site were shut down on 7 Sep. No additional cases have been detected since the onset of the last case on 2 Sep 2006.

A Community alert was sent through EWGLINET (The European Working Group for Legionella Infections, <<http://www.ewgli.org/ewglinet.htm>>) and the European Union's Early Warning and Response system but no cases linked to the outbreak in travelers from other countries have been found.

[Reported by: Dejour Salamanca D, Henry S, Che D (<[d.che@invs.sante.fr](mailto:d.che@invs.sante.fr)>), on behalf of the investigation team]

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[Sources of aerosolized water, particularly cooling towers, continue to be a significant factor in the spread of legionellosis, especially when cases appear to have nothing else in common.

A map of the city of Paris can be found at <<http://www.parisnet.net/parismap.html>>. The Gare d'Austerlitz train station is located in the 13th arrondissement (administrative district) in the southeastern part of the city. - Mod.LL]

#### LEGIONELLOSIS - FRANCE (PARIS)(02):BACKGROUND

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A ProMED-mail post <<http://www.promedmail.org>>

Date: Fri 29 Sep 2006 08:34:18 +0200

From: Steve Berger <[mberger@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:mberger@post.tau.ac.il)>

Source: GideonOnline [edited] <<http://gideononline.com>>

The outbreak of legionellosis in Paris illustrates a trend toward increasing disease rates in France and adjacent countries. (See: <<http://exhibit.gideononline.com/leg-France.jpg>>)

Reporting statistics for the USA have been added to this graph for purposes of comparison.

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[ProMED-mail thanks Dr Berger for his continued contributions. The extracted rate in cases per 100 000 population for France and Spain, countries in Europe with the highest incidence of legionellosis, as compared with the USA has been extracted in a table below:

Year France / Spain / USA

1997 0.4 / 0.6 / 0.25

1998 0.6 / 0.8 / 0.25

1999 0.75 / 1.1 / 0.45

2000 1.0 / 1.9 / 0.45

2001 1.3 / 3.0 / 0.45

2002 1.75 / 3.6 / 0.45

2003 1.8 / 3.3 / 0.8

2004 2.0 / 2.7 / 0.75

2005 2.6 / 3.2 / 0.8

The reasons for the dramatic rise in cases in Spain and France but not in the USA (or Belgium or Italy) are not clear but may relate in part with aggressive surveillance. - Mod.LL]