

LEGIONELLOSIS - SPAIN (BARCELONA)

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

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<<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Fri 13 Aug 2004

From: Pablo Nart <p.nart@ntlworld.com>

Source: ABC, Spain, [translated by P Nart, edited]

<<http://www.abc.es/abc/pg040813/actualidad/sociedad/sanidad/200408/13/legionella.asp>>

The sanitary authorities have identified 2 new cases of legionella infection. These 2 cases bring the total number of people affected by the legionellosis outbreak, detected in Vallcarca, a district of Barcelona, to 19. The Public Health Department say that these new cases are men, 55 and 56 years of age, respectively. They presented with the initial symptoms of the disease before 3 Aug 2004.

The maximum incubation time of the disease is between 10 and 12 days and no new cases have been diagnosed during the past 10 days, so the health authorities think that the outbreak will be soon under control, although they do not discard the possibility that new cases may be identified.

According to sanitary sources, out of the 19 affected people -- 17 men and 2 women between the ages of 50 and 83 years -- 10 are still in hospital.

Technicians of the Department of Public Health of Barcelona are investigating the possible origin of the infection, and, are awaiting results of analyses of water samples, gathered from the 4 cooling towers of the Vallcarca district, that have since been disinfected preventively.

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LEGIONELLOSIS - SPAIN (BARCELONA) (02)

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Date: Thu, 19 Aug 2004

From: Alfonso Rodriguez <ajrm_msd@yahoo.es>

Source: Yahoo News, UK [edited] <<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/040819/323/f0qw4.html>>

Air conditioning system causes legionnaires' outbreak in Barcelona

The authorities in the north eastern Spanish region of Catalonia said that an outbreak of legionnaires' disease in Barcelona earlier in August 2004 had been traced back to the air conditioning system of a private clinic. 20 men and 7 women aged between 45 and 83 have been taken ill since 7 Aug 2004. The latest case was that of a woman of 64, who developed symptoms on 14/15 Aug 2004.

The Generalitat, the regional government in Catalonia, said an analysis of samples taken on 7 Aug 2004 from air conditioning systems in the Villarca district of Barcelona showed a high concentration of the bacteria that cause legionnaires' disease in the clinic's cooling system.

The health authorities said 15 of the 27 people affected to date were still in hospital but their conditions were generally satisfactory. They said further cases of legionnaires' disease might be detected in coming days, since the incubation period lasted between 2 and 10 days and sufferers might not have immediately sought medical assistance.

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[Bacteriological typing of the air conditioner isolates can be helpful to determine whether the same genetic type was found in the patients, if the diagnosis in some of those afflicted was made by culture. It is not unusual to find totally different types of *Legionella* spp. in environmental samples and clinical isolates. - Mod.LL]