

LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY LHSASA

DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE MONTH OF

MARCH, 1974

BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

LYMPHOCYTIC CHORIOMENINGITIS AND HAMSTERS

From the Section of Epidemiology

On March 28, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta sent a memorandum to all State Health Departments to alert them to human cases of lymphocytic chorio-meningitis (LCM) associated with commercially supplied hamsters. At that time, cases of LCM reported from 6

states had been traced to infected hamsters distributed by the Aquarium Supply Company, Harrison, New Jersey (a subsidiary of Hartz Mountain, Inc.).

As of the last report from the CDC on April

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

DIVISION OF HEALTH MAINTENANCE AND AMBULATORY PATIENT SERVICES

Prepared by:																			
TABULATION AND ANALYSIS	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHThERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIONOUS	HEPATITIS A AND UNSPECIFIED	HEPATITIS B	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RUBELLA *	SEVERE ** UNDERNUTRITION	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	MEASLES	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
TOTAL TO DATE 19 73	19	0	2	1	165	32	191	12	5	10	38	7	70	0	43	1	33	4862	187
TOTAL TO DATE 19 74	15	0	1	0	153	62	136	12	4	2	8	8	16	1	34	0	5	6257	164
TOTAL THIS MONTH	4	0	1	0	43	23	41	2	0	0	5	2	6	0	8	0	1	2114	56
ACADIA							2												12
ALLEN																			3
ASCENSION					3		1												9
ASSUMPTION												1							2
AVOUELLES																			9
BEAUREGARD																			1
BIENVILLE					1	1							1						
BOSSIER																			11
CADDO					1	1	2										1		158
CALCASIEU							4												45
CALDWELL																			5
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA																			3
CLAIBORNE																			9
CONCORDIA																			7
DESOTO							1												10
EAST BATON ROUGE					3	1	5				3		1		2				115
EAST CARROLL																			9
EAST FELICIANA																			10
EVANGELINE							1												
FRANKLIN																			10
GRANT																			2
IBERIA																			9
IBERVILLE																			7

* INCLUDES RUBELLA, CONGENITAL SYNDROME

Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources
 Louisiana State Library
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Not reported until February, 1973.

**LHSASA**

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		DIVISION OF HEALTH MAINTENANCE AND AMBULATORY PATIENT SERVICES																	
Prepared by: TABULATION AND ANALYSIS	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHtherIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTION	HEPATITIS A AND UNSPECIFIED	HEPATITIS B	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	MEMINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RUBELLA	SEVERE UNDERNUTRITION	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	MEASLES	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
	JACKSON																		3
JEFFERSON	1		1		9	8	1						1		2			96	9
JEFFERSON DAVIS																		9	
LAFAYETTE																		37	
LAFORCHE																		8	
LASALLE																			
LINCOLN					1													47	
LIVINGSTON																		2	1
MADISON							1											6	
MOREHOUSE																		17	2
NATCHITOCHES					1													26	1
ORLEANS	2				13	8	4	1					2		2			946	27
OUACHITA					1		2				1		1					100	3
PLAQUEMINES						1												7	1
POINTE COUPEE																		2	
RAPIDES					1		1	1										88	
RED RIVER																		2	
RICHLAND																		14	
SABINE																		1	
ST. BERNARD					1													3	
ST. CHARLES					1													4	1
ST. HELENA																		3	
ST. JAMES																		5	
ST. JOHN					1	1												14	
ST. LANDRY							5				1							32	
ST. MARTIN							1											10	
ST. MARY							1											16	
ST. TAMMANY						2												23	
TANGIPAHOA					2		1					1						24	1
TENSAS																		1	
TERREBONNE	1						2											5	
UNION							2											8	1
VERMILION					1													2	
VERNON							1											14	
WASHINGTON					2		1								1			19	
WEBSTER							1											32	
WEST BATON ROUGE							1											11	
WEST CARROLL															1			3	
WEST FELICIANA																		23	
WINN					1													5	
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1 through March 31, 1 case of Malaria (contracted outside the U.S.A.) was also reported.

6, 93 cases of hamster associated LCM have been reported in the United States:

STATES REPORTED HAMSTER ASSOCIATED LCM

December, 1973 - April 6, 1974

New York	(38)	New Jersey	(4)
California	(29)	Nevada	(1)
Florida	(14)	Minnesota	(1)
Massachusetts	(6)		

Although most of these cases reported onsets of illness during the period December 19, 1973 to late March of 1974, the majority of those cases for which epidemiologic information was available had onsets in January and February of 1974. All hamsters implicated by these cases were obtained from the same New Jersey distributor and were, for the most part, members of shipments made by this company in December and January. Preliminary investigations by CDC workers have identified a single Alabama breeder as the probable source for the infected hamsters. This breeder is no longer distributing hamsters through the Aquarium Supply Co.

Although no confirmed cases of LCM have been reported in Louisiana in recent months, numerous stores with outlets in Louisiana are known to purchase livestock from the Aquarium Supply Co.:

LOUISIANA STORES PURCHASING LIVESTOCK FROM THE AQUARIUM SUPPLY CO.

Woolworth	Barkers
Kresge	Wackers
Grant	Sterling
McNew	Kress
Murphy	Montgomery Ward
B. Franklin	Sears
T G & Y	Perry Bros.

Whether any infected hamsters reached the Louisiana outlets of these stores is not known. Nonetheless, in the light of cases of LCM being reported from scattered areas throughout the

country, it would seem wise for Louisiana physicians to screen all cases of aseptic meningitis for LCM* and to question each regarding recent acquisition of hamsters. There is no specific treatment for the disease.

CDC recommendations directed at the current outbreak are as follows:

1. Persons with a history suggestive of LCM and owning hamsters purchased during this time from the associated stores should immediately destroy the hamsters through appropriate facilities, such as animal shelters.
2. It should be made certain that stores purchasing hamsters from the Aquarium Supply Company (primarily or secondarily) have no hamsters in stock shipped before March 25, 1974.
3. All litter, bedding, water bottles, cages, and other materials in contact with hamsters acquired from the implicated shipments should be decontaminated or destroyed.
4. In general, then, persons having symptoms suggestive of LCM infection in contact with a hamster should be investigated by serologic test of the person and the hamster. CDC will provide supportive epidemiologic and laboratory support when indicated.
5. The public should be apprised of the risk of purchase of hamsters during this time period from the store chains involved.

* LCM Complement Fixation (CF) titers are performed by the State Laboratories and may be obtained by submitting acute and convalescent sera from suspect cases through local health units.

TYPHOID CARRIER SURVEILLANCE

From the Section of Epidemiology

Typhoid fever, once a major disease problem in the state, has become a rare occurrence in recent years. Improved food and water sanitation

have been primarily responsible for this decline, however, the detection and subsequent control of typhoid carriers is also credited for a portion

of the reduction in reported cases. During the past ten years an average of 9 cases per year were reported as compared to 87 cases per year during the 1950's.

Currently, 111 known chronic typhoid carriers are under the surveillance of local health unit personnel throughout the state. These known carriers are not permitted to work in food or beverage handling occupations. A visit is made twice annually by a representative of the parish health unit to instruct the carrier in proper sanitary methods of excreta disposal, to vaccinate household contacts (when indicated), and to ascertain that the carrier has not moved to a different address and is not engaged in a food handling occupation.

Of the 111 known carriers in the state, 69 are females and 42 are males. The average age is 65, the youngest being 25 and the oldest 92. During the past 10 years, 27 new carriers have been added to the list while during the same period 62 were deleted. Twenty of the new carriers were detected in the course of investigating contacts of acute cases, 3 carriers were detected in other states and the individuals then moved to Louisiana, and 2 were detected during routine clinical work-up of unrelated illness. Of the 62 carriers removed from the list, 52 died, 5 moved out of state, and 5 were released following extensive evaluations which determined that they were no longer excreting typhoid organisms. Only 1 of 5 carriers released received treatment to eliminate the carrier status, the treatment being a cholecystectomy. Records

on the remaining 4 indicated that they may have been inadequately evaluated as chronic carriers when first added to the list and were removed following re-evaluation.

While our data on the number of chronic carriers who have received antibiotics to eliminate carrier status is incomplete, it is interesting that the records fail to show any successful treatments. There are, however, reports in the literature of varying degrees of success using high and prolonged doses of ampicillin. Chloramphenicol has not been shown to be effective in the treatment of the chronic carrier state. There is no definitive evidence that chloramphenicol therapy of acute cases reduces the incidence of carrier status development. Nonetheless, during the past 10 years none of the 89 cases reported in Louisiana have developed into a carrier state.

REFERENCES:

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