Botulism, Foodborne

2011 Case Definition

Clinical description

Ingestion of botulinum toxin results in an illness of variable severity. Common symptoms are diplopia, blurred vision, and bulbar weakness. Symmetric paralysis may progress rapidly.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- Detection of botulinum toxin in serum, stool, or patient's food, or
- Isolation of Clostridium botulinum from stool

Case classification

**Probable**: a clinically compatible case with an epidemiologic link (e.g., ingestion of a home-canned food within the previous 48 hours)

**Confirmed**: a clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed or that occurs among persons who ate the same food as persons who have laboratory-confirmed botulism