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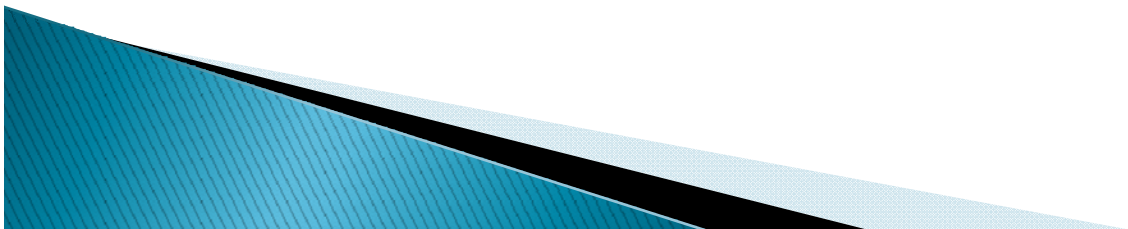


Listeriosis: Is it a rare disease in Thailand?

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Listeriosis

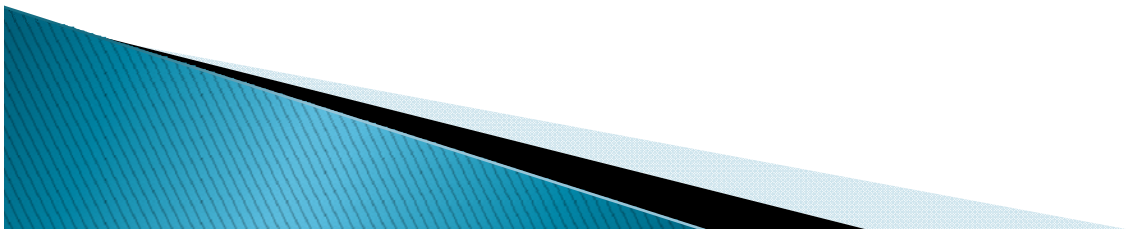
- ▶ *Listeria monocytogenes*: Important bacterial pathogen in immunosuppressed patients, neonates and elderly adults, pregnant women, and occasionally, previously healthy individuals
- ▶ Principal clinical manifestations: Meningoencephalitis and bacteremia
- ▶ In contrast, normal hosts who ingest high numbers of *Listeria* may develop self-limited febrile gastroenteritis



Listeria monocytogenes:

Microbiology

- ▶ *Listeria*: Facultatively anaerobic, motile, beta-hemolytic, non-spore-forming, short, gram-positive rod
- ▶ On Gram stain, *Listeria* may resemble pneumococci, enterococci, or diphtheroids (*Corynebacteria*), or be gram-variable and be confused with *Haemophilus* species
- ▶ In particular, when a positive blood or cerebrospinal fluid culture is preliminarily identified as diphtheroids, the clinician should consider the possibility that the isolate represents *Listeria*



Listeriosis: Increasing Rate in Europe

- ▶ Increasing rate of listeriosis has been reported in several European countries¹
- ▶ Decreased concentration of salt in prepared foods has been proposed as a possible cause
- ▶ In a study from England, an association between living in a socioeconomically depressed neighborhood and becoming ill with listeriosis was observed²
- ▶ Individuals who purchased food from small local food stores and convenience stores were more likely to develop listeriosis than the general population

1. Allerberger F, Wagner M. *Clin Microbiol Infect.* 2010;16:16.
2. Gillespie IA, et al. *Euro Surveill.* 2010;15:7.

Listeriosis: Sporadic Illness

- ▶ Listeriosis is more often a sporadic illness than an illness that occurs in outbreaks¹
- ▶ The source of infection in sporadic cases is usually not known but most cases are thought to be secondary to ingestion of contaminated food¹⁻³

1. Varma JK, et al. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2007;44:521.
2. Schuchat A, et al. *JAMA*. 1992;267:2041.
3. Pinner RW, et al. *JAMA*. 1992;267:2046.

