



Botulism Disease and Transmission

Botulism Disease

<p>How do you get botulism?</p>	<p>Food borne botulism: a person eats the toxin that leads to illness.</p> <p>Wound botulism: wounds are infected with toxin that reaches other parts of the body thorough the blood stream. Foods are not involved in the type of botulism.</p> <p>Infant botulism: a small number of vulnerable infants each year are infected with botulism. Honey can activate the botulism to produce a toxin in infant intestines.</p> <p>Botulism is not spread person to person.</p>
<p>How is botulism used as bioterrorist weapon?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorists could use the toxins in enclosed areas or contaminate food supplies. • It may take people several months to recover.
<p>How can I protect myself?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons at home should follow strict hygienic procedures to reduce contamination of food. • Oils mixed with garlic or herbs should be refrigerated. • Potatoes baked in aluminum foil should be kept hot until served or refrigerated. • Person eating foods that are canned at home should consider boiling the food for 15 minutes before eating to ensure safety. • Do not feed honey to infants less than 12 months of age. • Wound botulism, can be prevented by promptly seeking medical care for infected wounds.
<p>How soon will I get sick?</p>	<p>Symptoms of food borne botulism usually occur 12 to 36 hours after ingesting the toxin.</p>
<p>Symptoms?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing and dry mouth. • Muscle weakness that moves down through the body. • First the shoulder, then upper arms, lower arms, thighs calves, etc. • Paralysis of breathing muscles can cause a person to stop breathing and die, unless assistance with breathing is provided.
<p>Treatment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See your doctor right away. • When botulism is suspected, an antitoxin should be given. • Ventilator support along with supportive care should be provided. • Botulism can be fatal if not treated.