# Listeriosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANIMAL GROUP AFFECTED</th>
<th>TRANSMISSION</th>
<th>CLINICAL SIGNS</th>
<th>FATAL DISEASE?</th>
<th>TREATMENT</th>
<th>PREVENTION &amp; CONTROL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pongidae, Cercopithecidae, Cebidae, Prosimiae</td>
<td>Perorally, percutaneous-ly</td>
<td>In nonhuman primates mainly neonatal sepsis, abortion.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Antibiotics</td>
<td>In houses No feeding of raw milk or milk products in zoos no feeding of raw milk or milk products</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fact sheet compiled by**
Manfred Brack, formerly German Primate Center, Göttingen / Germany.

**Last update**
22.11.2008

**Susceptible animal groups**
Pongidae, Cercopithecidae, Cebidae, Prosimiae.

**Causative organism**
*Listeria monocytogenes* (Corynebacteriaceae)- serovars 1 - 4

**Zoonotic potential**
Yes.

**Distribution**
World-wide.

**Transmission**
Perorally. *L. monocytogenes* has been isolated from healthy domestic animals and from food, especially milk and milk products. In newborn monkeys intrauterine, diaplacentar transmission, in man also percutaneous infection reported. Cave: Listeria multiply even at low temperatures (refrigerator), low pH and high saline concentrations.

**Incubation period**
1 – 5 days after experimental infection of rodents, in man 7 – 21 days.

**Clinical symptoms**
In nonhuman primates primarily uterine infections with abortion or neonatal sepsis, occasionally meningocerephalitis or hepatitis. Primary cutaneous listeriosis of man is potentially fatal.

**Post mortem findings**
Focal liver necroses, focal necrotic placentitis, adrenal abscesses, purulent pyelitis, proctitis, meningocerephalitis.

**Diagnosis**
Cultivation (sheep blood agar after cold enrichment, Serology: slide agglutination.

**Material required for laboratory analysis**
Altered tissues, serum, suspected food products.

**Relevant diagnostic laboratories**
1. Local veterinary or medical laboratories.
2. Konsiliarlaboratorium für Listerien, Institut für Medizinische Mikrobiologie und Hygiene, Klinikum Mannheim GmbH Theodor-Kutzer-Ufer 1 – 3 D 68167 MANNHEIM Tel.: 0621 383 2224 Fax: “ 3816 e-mail: herbert.hot@imh.ma.uni-heidelberg.de
Treatment
Antibiotics (Ampicillin in high concentrations: man: 4-6 x 2 mg/day over 14 – 21 days. Gentamycin: 180 – 240 mg over 14 days). Penicillin, Tetracycline, Erythromycin).

Prevention and control in zoos
No feeding of raw milk or milk products, good hygienic practices.

Suggested disinfectant for housing facilities

Notification

Guarantees required under EU Legislation

Guarantees required by EAZA Zoos

Measures required under the Animal Disease Surveillance Plan

Measures required for introducing animals from non-approved sources

Measures to be taken in case of disease outbreak or positive laboratory findings

Conditions for restoring disease-free status after an outbreak

Experts who may be consulted
Prof. Dr. H. Hof, Konsiliarlaboratorium, Mannheim

References