

Title: Listeria Education for Pregnant Women**Statement of the Problem:**

Listeria is a significant concern to anyone with a compromised immune system, such as those with cancer, advanced age, or a pregnancy. Specific information on the potential hazard of consumption of foods documented to be contaminated with Listeria is not reaching the general public and especially those populations at risk, such as pregnant women. CDC estimates 1850 cases occur each year, with 425 deaths, and that one-third of cases occur among pregnant women. The US Dept of Health and Human Services/Food and Drug Administration and the US Dept of Agriculture/Food Safety and Inspection Service recently released a draft risk assessment of the potential relative risk of listeriosis. In that document (www.foodsafety.gov), they cite the increased risk of this infection in pregnant women, and suggest guidelines on consumption of items with a known potential for Listeria contamination.

Desired Action(s) to be Taken:

Current patient educational materials available from the American Academy of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) do not provide any information on the risk of Listeria during pregnancy. ACOG has taken a strong position in the effort to reduce and eliminate Group B Streptococcal disease in pregnancy and has made available an educational pamphlet for women on that topic. We propose that CDC work with ACOG to take a similar proactive approach to Listeriosis during pregnancy. One suggestion is to add information on Listeria risk during pregnancy to the ACOG pamphlet AP001: Nutrition During Pregnancy.

Fiscal and Impact Statement:

No significant costs to CSTE are anticipated.
Letter of support estimate \$42 - \$78.

Probable Impact of Public Health:

Advances in laboratory and epidemiologic investigation have allowed us to more often link patient isolates to specific foods in ever shorter time. However, we will more likely prevent disease in this population group and prevent fetal deaths, if information we have gained from our investigational experiences is communicated to the people who can benefit most from our findings. Altering consumption of food in this high risk group will prevent numerous human cases of listeriosis.

Lead Author:

Matthew Boulton, MD,MPH
State Epidemiologist
Michigan Department of Community Health
3423 N.MLK Blvd.

Lansing, Michigan 48909
United States
Telephone: (517) 335-8165
Fax: (517) 335-8121
Email: boultonm@state.mi.us

Co-Author(s):

Frances Downes, DrPH
Administrator, State Laboratory
Michigan Dept Community Health
3350 N. MLK Blvd
Lansing, Michigan 48909
United States
Telephone: (517) 335-8063
Fax: (517) 335-8051
Email: downesf@state.mi.us

Mary Grace Stobierski, DVM, MPH
Manager, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section
MI Dept Community Health
3423 N. MLK Blvd
Lansing, Michigan 48909
United States
Telephone: (517) 335-8165
Fax: (517) 335-8263
Email: stobierskim@state.mi.us

Patricia Somsel, DrPH
Chief, Infectious Disease Laboratory Division
MI Dept Community Health
3423 N. MLK Blvd
Lansing, Michigan 48909
United States
Telephone: (517) 335-8067
Fax: (517) 335-9631
Email: somselp@state.mi.us

Agencies for Response:

ACOG
CDC

Agencies for Information:

Cathy Hess, Executive Director
AMCHP