

Ciguatoxin poisoning case definition

Clinical Criteria

Any person having neurologic symptoms, if other causes have been excluded. Most frequent symptoms are: paraesthesia, cold allodynia, dysesthesia, pruritus without urticarial or erythema, diffuses pain and muscle weakness.

Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea) often precede or accompany the neurological symptoms. Cardiovascular symptoms and signs (hypotension and bradycardia) may also be present.

Epidemiological Criteria

Epidemiological criteria for a confirmed case:

Consumption of fish with laboratory confirmed contamination of ciguatoxins in 48 hours prior to disease onset.

Epidemiological criteria for a probable case:

Consumption of fish (species, common name or type) previously associated with ciguatera poisoning (e.g., moray eel, amberjack, barracuda, snapper, or grouper) (Annex 1)¹ in 48 hours prior to disease onset.

OR

Exposure to the same common source as a confirmed case in 48 hours prior to disease onset.

Epidemiological criteria for a possible case:

Consumption of fish (species, common name or type) either NOT previously associated with ciguatera poisoning or of unknown type, in 48 hours prior to disease onset.

Case Classification

A. Possible case

Any person meeting the clinical criteria and the epidemiological criterion for a possible case.

B. Probable case

Any person meeting the clinical criteria and the epidemiological criterion for a probable case.

C. Confirmed case

Any person meeting the clinical criteria and the epidemiological criterion for a confirmed case.

¹ It is an incomplete list. It can be updated.