

3.7 Less common gastroenteric infections

Listeriosis

Ten cases of human listeriosis were notified in 2009 compared to 13 in 2008 and 21 in 2007.

There was one pregnancy-related case and no neonatal cases reported.

There were also nine adult cases. Five were male and four female, and ages ranged from 24 to 94 years of age. Five cases were reported as elderly (>65 years) including at least two who were reported as having an underlying illness that predisposed them to listeriosis, and three were cases younger than 65 years also reported as suffering from an underlying illness that predisposed them to listeriosis. No enhanced information was available on the ninth case.

There were no reported deaths among cases.

Since 2007, the National Salmonella Reference Laboratory has offered a national service for typing of *Listeria* strains. In 2009, isolates for eight of the notified cases were received for typing at NSRL (80%). The serotype distribution of these strains is outlined in the table below.

The number of adult cases remains similar to previous years: however, the number of pregnancy-related and neonatal cases in Ireland had decreased since 2007 when there were nine listeriosis cases among neonates and pregnant women, many of whom were of non-Irish origin.¹ Targeted leaflets by Safefood aimed at pregnant women, in particular those whose first language was not English, may have had an effect.² A similar risk among pregnant women from ethnic minorities has recently been reported in England and Wales.³

Listeriosis remains a hazard for the elderly, persons with underlying illness, and other vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and neonates.

References

1. Garvey, P et al. 2008. Human listeriosis: surveillance, epidemiology, transmission and prevention. *Epi-Insight* 2008 9(7):1,4
2. Safefood leaflet for pregnant women at <http://www.safefoodonline.com/>
3. Mook P et al. 2010. Emergence of pregnancy-related listeriosis amongst ethnic minorities in England and Wales. *Eurosurveillance*, Volume 15, Issue 27, 08 July 2010

Listeriosis notifications by case type and serotype, Ireland 2009 -typing data provided courtesy of Prof Martin Cormican and staff at the NSRL

	Serotype 1/2	Serotype 4b	Not referred for serotyping	Total
Adult or juvenile	4	3	2	9
Pregnancy-related	0	1	0	1
Neonatal	0	0	0	0
Total	4	4	2	10