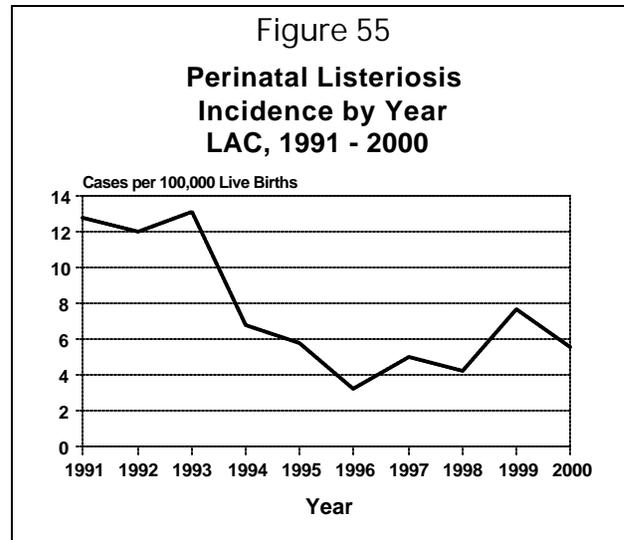


LISTERIOSIS, PERINATAL

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	8
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	5.5
United States	N/A
Age at Onset	
Maternal	
Mean	27 years
Median	26 years
Range	16 - 36 years
Infant, Gestational	
Mean	29 weeks
Median	31 weeks
Range	18 - 35 weeks
Case Fatality	
LA County	38 %
United States	N/A

^a Cases per 100,000 live births



ETIOLOGY

Perinatal listeriosis occurs when a pregnant woman, her fetus, or a neonate is infected with *Listeria monocytogenes*. Neonatal listeriosis is divided into early onset (0-6 days after birth) and late onset (7-42 days after birth). The fetus may be born prematurely, stillborn, born with septicemia, or develop meningitis in the neonatal period, even if the mother has suffered only mild flu-like symptoms or no symptoms at all.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

- Perinatal listeriosis incidence has remained low since 1994.
- Perinatal listeriosis has a very high case-fatality rate.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The 2000 perinatal listeriosis incidence has decreased since last year, reversing a 3-year upward trend (Figure 55).

Onset: In 2000, all cases were classified as early-onset.

Maternal age: 7 cases were in women aged 15-34 years; one case was in a woman aged 35-44 years.

Sex: Information on 7 of the 8 live-born infants showed that 4 were male and 3 were female.

Race/Ethnicity: Whites had 4 cases, Hispanics had 3 cases, and Asians 1 case.

Type of Delivery: In 5 perinatal cases where the method of delivery was known, 3 were delivered by Caesarean section and 2 were vaginal.

Outcome: Three infants died and 5 survived.

Culture Sites: Of the 8 cases, *Listeria monocytogenes* was isolated from the blood of 4 infants. Common sites of isolation for mothers included blood and the placenta (Table 3).

COMMENTS

Cases of perinatal listeriosis has decreased compared to the number of cases in 1999. Asians had the most cases in 1999, while Whites had the most cases in 2000; however, the numbers were small. There were no perinatal cases associated with outbreaks in 2000.

PREVENTION

Listeria monocytogenes is found in soil and water. Animals can carry *Listeria* without appearing ill, which can result in contaminated foods of animal origin, such as meats and dairy products. In particular, studies have implicated unpasteurized milk or products made from unpasteurized milk (i.e., soft cheeses such as Mexican-style cheese, Brie and Feta), cold cuts from deli counters or undercooked meat (e.g., chicken, paté, pork tongue in jelly). These foods should be avoided by pregnant women. Fruits and vegetables should be thoroughly washed. In particular, cheese sold by street vendors or obtained from relatives/friends in other countries where food processing quality assurance is unknown should be avoided by pregnant women.

Table 3: Number and Percent* of *Listeria* isolates from Mothers and Infants—LAC, 2000

Culture Site	Mother (n = 7)		Infant (n = 5)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Blood	3	43%	4	80%
Placenta	3	43%	N/A	---
Amniotic fluid	1	14%	N/A	---

* Percentages may not add up to 100% as cultures may have been obtained from more than one site.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/listeriosis_g.htm

<http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~mow/chap6.html>

<http://lapublichealth.org/acd/procs/b73/b73index.htm>