Clinical guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of botulism, 2021.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Rao AK, Sobel J, Chatham-Stephens K, Luquez C. Clinical guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of botulism, 2021. MMWR Recomm Rep. 2021 May 7;70(2):1-30. [127 references]
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Overview

Guideline Objective

To provide health care personnel with recommended best practices for the diagnosis, monitor, and treatment of botulism in the settings of conventional, contingency, and crisis standards of care

Patient Population

Patients with confirmed or suspected botulism

Recommendations

Recommendation Statements

Major interventions covered in this guideline include:

- Diagnostic techniques, including neurologic exam, electrodiagnostic testing, and laboratory testing
- Consultation with patient about possible exposure and contacting local or state health department
- Treatment of suspected patients with botulinum antitoxin heptavalent (BAT), including early administration, use of weight-based dosing with children, and pregnant/breastfeeding women
- Alternative treatments (e.g., aminoglycosides, magnesium)
- Neurologic, respiratory, and autonomin function monitoring
- Approach to handle BAT shortage and supportive care

Note: Full recommendation statements have not been provided because this guideline does not meet EGT's systematic review of the evidence criteria. Refer to the original guideline for more information.

Evidence Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Recommendation Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Related Content

Supporting Documents

- Clinical Features of Foodborne and Wound Botulism: A Systematic Review of the Literature, 1932–2015; 2018 Jan 15.

- The Epidemiology of Foodborne Botulism Outbreaks: A Systematic Review; 2017 Dec 27.
- Efficacy of Antitoxin Therapy in Treating Patients With Foodborne Botulism: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Cases, 1923–2016; 2017 Dec 27.
- Workgroup Report by the Joint Task Force Involving American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI); Food Allergy, Anaphylaxis, Dermatology and Drug Allergy (FADDA); and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Botulism Clinical Treatment Guidelines Workgroup—Allergic Reactions to Botulinum Antitoxin: A Systematic Review; 2017 Dec 27.
- Botulism During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period: A Systematic Review; 2017 Dec 27.
- Pediatric Botulism and Use of Equine Botulinum Antitoxin in Children: A Systematic Review; 2017 Dec 27.

Implementation Tools

- Information for Health Professionals: Botulism; 2022 Jun 16.

Patient Education

- Botulism; 2022 Jun 8. Also available in Spanish; 2022 May 31.

Note: This patient information is intended to help patients better understand their health and their diagnosed disorders. Patients and their representatives should still consult with a licensed health care professional for evaluation of treatment options as well as answers to their personal medical questions.

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