

1.5 Other forms of Bacterial Meningitis

Summary

Bacterial meningitis, Not Otherwise Specified

Number of cases, 2007: 31

Number of cases, 2006: 45

Number of cases, 2005: 29

Crude incidence rate, 2007: 0.7/100,000

Apart from *Neisseria meningitidis*, which is considered the most common cause of bacterial meningitis in Ireland, other forms of the disease do occur. Details of these are presented below. For details on invasive meningococcal disease (which includes *N. meningitidis* meningitis), see a separate chapter within this report.

Streptococcus pneumoniae

In 2007, 35 cases of pneumococcal meningitis were notified, compared to 24 in 2006 and 19 in 2005. Cases

in 2007 ranged in age from one month to 74 years. There were five pneumococcal meningitis related deaths, all but one were in children under two years of age. See a separate chapter on invasive pneumococcal disease for further details.

Haemophilus influenzae

In 2007, two cases of meningitis due to *H. influenzae* were notified, both of whom recovered. One case was in an infant <12 months and due to *H. influenzae* type b. The second case, age 36 years, was due to an untyped *H. influenzae* infection. See a separate chapter on invasive *H. influenzae* disease for further details.

Listeria monocytogenes

One case of *L. monocytogenes* meningitis was notified in an elderly patient in 2007.

Table 1. Annual notifications of bacterial meningitis other than meningococcal disease, in Ireland, 2005-2007

Notified under	Causative Pathogen	2005	2006	2007
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> infection (invasive)	<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	19	24	35
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> disease (invasive)	<i>H. influenzae</i>	9	4	2
Listeriosis	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	1	1	1
<i>Streptococcus</i> group A infection (invasive)	<i>S. pyogenes</i>	1	1	0
Tuberculosis	<i>M. tuberculosis</i>	9	7	7*
Bacterial meningitis NOS (not otherwise specified)	<i>E. coli</i>	0	3	0
	<i>Gamella</i> species	0	0	1
	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	0	1	0
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	1	0	0
	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	0	0	1
	<i>S. aureus</i>	1	0	0
	Staphylococcus coagulase negative	0	1	0
	<i>S. agalactiae</i> (Group B streptococcus)	5	4	9
	Streptococcus Group C	1	0	0
	Unknown	21	36	22
	Total BacMen (nos)	29	45	33
Other forms of bacterial meningitis	Total	68	82	78*

* TB meningitis figures for 2007 are provisional

***Streptococcus pyogenes* (Streptococcus group A infection (invasive) (iGAS))**

There was no reported case of iGAS causing meningitis in 2007, unlike in 2006 and 2005, when one case in each year was notified.

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

In 2007, seven *M. tuberculosis* meningitis cases were notified (provisional figure). Cases ranged in age from 38-78 years. One death was reported.

Group B streptococci

Nine cases of meningitis due to *Streptococcus agalactiae* were notified in 2007. All but one were neonatal cases. No deaths were reported.

Other causative pathogens

Cases of bacterial meningitis due to other pathogens were also notified in 2007. One meningitis notification for each of the following was received: *Gamella* species and *Proteus mirabilis*, both of which were reported in neonates.

Bacterial meningitis (not otherwise specified)

In total 33 cases of meningitis under this disease category were notified in 2007. The causative pathogens were identified in 11 of these and are detailed above (see group B streptococci, *Gamella* species and *Proteus mirabilis*). No causative pathogen was identified for 22 of the notifications, a decrease compared to 2006 (n=36) and similarly to that reported in 2005 (n=21).