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Reyes Syndrome

Alaska reported its first case of Reyes Syndrome occurring in a young boy. Reyes Syndrome is an extremely serious illness characterized by encephalopathy, metabolic abnormalities and fatty infiltration of the liver. This syndrome usually is preceded by a non-specific viral illness. Mortality is 50% and the cause of the syndrome is unknown. Generally this disease strikes young children. Fortunately, the child survived.

In this particular case, Adenovirus, Type 14, was isolated from the cerebral spinal fluid.

(Reported by Dion Roberts, M.D.)

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

Hand, foot and mouth disease is caused by a Coxsackie Virus, usually Type A-16. The disease is usually characterized by vesicular stomatitis with oral lesions occurring on the buccal surface of the cheeks and gums. Papulovesicular lesions also occur on the hands, feet and legs and may persist for 7 to 10 days. Hence the name hand, foot and mouth disease. Herpangina, also caused by a Coxsackie Virus (usually Type 3) differs from hand, foot and mouth disease in that vesicular lesions are generally confined to the soft palate and anterior pharynx.

Treatment is symptomatic for both of the above diseases.

The above illnesses generally occur in children under the age of 10 years. In the past two week period fifteen known cases of hand, foot and mouth disease have occurred in Anchorage. Physicians should be aware that the disease is present in the community.

(Reported by Dion Roberts, M.D.)