



Bulletin No. 1

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## Poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis

The epidemic of poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis continues in the Bethel area. Microscopic hematuria and proteinuria are most common signs characterizing this disease. The 3-7 year age group is primarily affected.

Characterization of the streptococcus which has been found in these children reveals a non M typable, T-14 organism. This organism is now being identified in rising numbers in all parts of the state. There have now been single cases from Kodiak, Soldotna, and Anchorage.

Since the disease is indolent in its preparation, we suggest screening the urine of your patients who grow Group A Beta hemolytic streptococcus until you are sure there is no glomerulonephritis.

In patients with abnormal urines confirmed by microscopy, the minimal workup should consist of a physical examination looking for edema, blood pressure (use pediatric cuff and pediatric standards), a serum C3 complement (Beta 1-C globulin), and a chest x-ray.

Reporting of cases or suspected cases should be called to the Center of Disease Control at 279-9511.

(Reported by Dr. Harold Margolis, Center for Disease Control, Anchorage)

### **BOTULISM AT CHEVAK**

On January 5, 1976, a 51-year-old man died at the Bethel PHS Hospital. Investigation revealed that on December 31, 1975, he had eaten whitefish which had been fermented in a sealed plastic bag which had been kept inside his house. Type E botulism toxin was recovered from the patient's stool. The man's wife ate a few bites of the implicated fish and developed nausea and vomiting, but no other symptoms. All botulism outbreaks in Alaska have been caused by Native foods. The last cases were in March, 1975. Meat should not be stored in plastic bags unless it is kept frozen.