



BOTULISM CASE REPORT SUMMARY LOS ANGELES COUNTY, 2014

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One case of botulism was reported in 2014 that met the case definition. This was a case of wound botulism due to injection drug use and the patient recovered from their symptoms. Although both the mouse bioassay on serum for toxin A performed by the Los Angeles County (LAC) Public Health Laboratory and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-Time of Flight (MALDI-TOF) test for toxin A in serum¹ were negative, the case was classified as a case of probable botulism because the clinical history, risk factors, symptoms, and electromyography (EMG) testing were all consistent with botulism. The LAC Acute Communicable Disease Control Program also received one report of suspected botulism that tested negative for toxin A and MALDI-TOF and did not meet criteria for a case; the patient was diagnosed with seizures and drug withdrawal.

The local health department's only responsibility for infant botulism is immediate telephone reporting of suspected cases to the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Division of Communicable Disease Control. All suspected cases are investigated by the CDPH [Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program](#).²

¹ Barr JR, Moura H, Boyer AE, Woolfitt AR, Kalb SR, Pavlopoulos A, et al. Botulinum neurotoxin detection and differentiation by mass spectrometry. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2005; 11 (10): 1578-1583

² Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program. Division of Communicable Disease Control, California Department of Public Health. <http://www.infantbotulism.org/>.