Flow chart to assist in assessment of seafood-related illness by symptoms and foods

What food did case have exposure to?

Fish

Did case experience flushing and sweating?
Yes
No
Did case experience neurological symptoms such as difficulty distinguishing hot and cold?
Yes
Further consultation required
No
Possible Ciguatera

Shellfish

Did case have neurologic symptoms?
Yes
Further consultation required
No
Did case experience memory loss after gastrointestinal symptoms?
Yes
Possible ASP
No
Did case experience tingling in lips, face and/or extremities?
Yes
Possible PSP
No
Possible DSP

Was shellfish cooked?
No
Possible Noro OR Vibrio
Yes
Possible DSP

Possible Scombroid

Report all cases to BCCDC (chelsa.treloar@bccdc.ca, fax-604-707-2516) and complete human seafood illness-case report form or Vibrio report form. Consider inspection of food service establishments and assessment of implicated products. If products are available for testing, collect and hold until decision with appropriate lab are made. CFIA can test for toxins, BC PHL can test for norovirus and other pathogens.

If assessment is that fish or shellfish likely caused illness complete human seafood illness-case or Vibrio report form and collect tags. Send to BCCDC.

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