

CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET **REYE SYNDROME**

Reye Syndrome (RS) is an illness characterized by persistent vomiting and neurologic dysfunction, sometimes progressing to delirium, coma, and death. The typical patient is recovering from a viral illness when onset of severe vomiting occurs. This vomiting, usually considered the onset of RS, is persistent, uncontrollable, and very often unresponsive to anti nausea medication.

Symptoms

- Severe vomiting will be accompanied by a change in mental status, the classic manifestation of RS.
- Symptoms range from extreme fatigue to confusion, seizures, and respiratory arrest.
- If left untreated, or if treatment is delayed, the case may progress through deepening levels of coma to death.
- Mortality is related to the stage of coma at hospital admission. Some severe cases that survive may experience varying degrees of physical and/or neurologic impairments.

Transmission

- RS is not communicable person-to-person. There is no carrier state.

Treatment

- Since the major cause of death is swelling of the brain, therapy directed at lowering increased intracranial pressure is indicated.

Prevention

- Physicians, parents, and older children who self-medicate should be aware of the increased risk of RS associated with using aspirin to treat influenza like illness or chickenpox.
- Children and teenagers should NOT take aspirin to bring down a fever during any kind of viral illness, especially chicken pox.

All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

www.cdrsinfo.com

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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