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## Serogroup B Meningococcal Disease in Oregon

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The incidence of serogroup B meningococcal disease, particularly ET-5 clonal strains, is continuing at high levels in Oregon.

To evaluate the impact of the ET-5 strain on epidemiology of meningococcal disease in Oregon, an epidemiological analysis of surveillance data in Oregon from 1987 to 1996 and multilocus enzyme electrophoresis typing of serogroup B isolates from June 1993 through April 1995 and from April through June 1996 was done. A total of 836 persons with invasive meningococcal disease were identified.

Serogroup B disease incidence rates more than doubled in Oregon from the pre-epidemic period of 1987 to 1992 (1.0 case/100,000 population) to the recent epidemic period, 1995 and 1996 (2.2 cases/100,000). The age-specific incidence rate of serogroup B disease among those 15 through 19 years old increased 13-fold between the pre-epidemic (0.5 case/100,000) and the epidemic period (6.4 cases/100,000). However, the proportion of cases with meningococemia and the case-fatality rate did not change. Of 99 *Neisseria meningitidis* isolates obtained from 1993 to 1995, 88 (89%) belonged to the ET-5 complex. Of these, 69 (78%) were a

single clone, designated 301. Of 20 serogroup B isolates from 1996, 18 (90%) belonged to the ET-5 complex; 17 (94%) were the 301 clone.

The researchers noted that the annual incidence of meningococcal disease in Oregon currently is four times the national rate. The data indicate that serogroup B meningococcal disease incidence continues at high levels in Oregon with increasing predominance of the ET-5 clonal strains.

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