

Class 6.3 : Infectious Substances

Information Table for Anthrax

1. Disease : Anthrax (malignant pustule, wool sorter's disease)
(Common Names)
2. Etiologic Agents : *Bacillus anthracis*
3. Health Effects
(Human and Animal)
 - 3.1. Human : Persistent skin infection, usually on hands or arms

Pulmonary form less common but much more severe
With fairly high rare fatality rate

Gastrointestinal form is least common
 - 3.2. Animal : Usually overwhelming bacteremia and septicemia
with

rapid death in cattle, sheep and goats

Less acute in horse, pigs and dogs
- 4.1. Animal hosts : Zooanthroponosis
- 4.2. Specific animals infected : Cattle, sheep, goats, pig, dog
5. Mechanisms of Transmission
 - 5.1. Reservoir : Soil
Water (stagnant ponds near incubator areas)
 - 5.2. Direct zoonosis
Sapro zoonosis
 - 5.3. Specific mechanisms: Direct contact with infected animals or their
carcasses

or body parts or animal fertilizers or feeds

infected

- Inhalation of spores from hair or hide of animals
- Consumption of improperly cooked meat of infected animals

6. Epidemiology

6.1. Populations at Risk : Sheep and goat producers, cattle producers

Veterinarians and other animal health workers

Hair and hide processors

Abattoir workers

6.2. Geographic distribution: Worldwide in endemic foci
May be transported to distant locations with hair and hide from infected animals

7. Prevention or control: -Vaccination of animals in endemic areas

-Personal protection when handling potentially infected animals or tissues

-Deep burial and covering with lime of infected animal carcasses

-Vaccination of human at high risk.