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Fish-Handler's Disease.

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ABSTRACT

The tropical fish are transported from abroad the stress the environment can cause bacterial infections and disease which can then be passed to humans. The bacteria cause chronic systemic infections that form lesions internally and externally.

Keywords: Fish Handler's, Blisters.



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INTRODUCTION

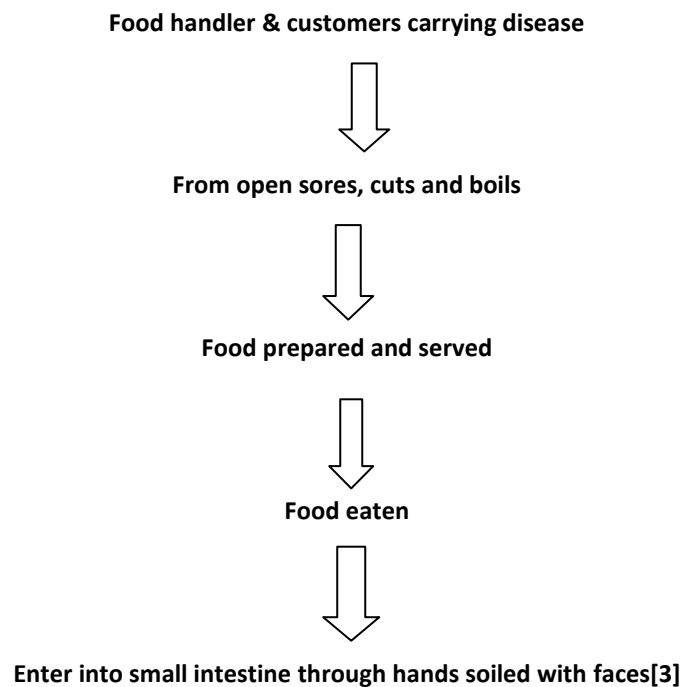
Infections or infestations of animals that can be transmitted to humans are called zoo noses. Although cases of human disease arising from fish and shellfish are rare in Australia, there are a few ‘fish diseases’ that workers in the aquaculture and fishing industries need to be conscious of when handling or processing fish. Fish-handler's disease is a nonspecific term that is in the medical and lay literature that describes a disease or syndrome of humans that may occur after handling fish or, in some instances, other aquatic organisms.[1]

FISH-HANDLER'S DISEASE CAUSES

Fish-handler's disease also occurs when cuts or scrapes in the skin become infected with *Mycobacterium* ssp., mainly the species *marinum* and *fortuitum*. Handling tropical fish, coral, cleaning aquariums, swimming pools, fishing, lobster catching, and many other similar activities can introduce these bacteria into cuts and scrapes. Developing fish-handler's disease requires deliberate contact with fish, particularly lobster and other shellfish[2]



PATHOPHYSIOLOGY



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Red purple circle around the puncture.
- Blister like lesions
- Joint stiffness
- Lymphnode swelling
- Pain and swelling
- Itching and burning sensation
- Sepsis
- Endocarditis[4]



DIAGNOSIS OF FISH-HANDLER'S DISEASE

Diagnosis of the cause of an individual's fish-handler's disease is done by culturing the bacteria from the lesions or by PCR tests (tests that identify the genetic material of bacteria or other organisms) specific for the bacterial type involved. [5]

FISH-HANDLER'S DISEASE TREATMENT

- Neosporin
- pyrazinamid
- Pencillin
- Rifampin
- Sulfamethoxazole & Trimethoprim
- Tetracyclines
- Acetamoniphen
- Ibuprofen
- Clindamycin
- Vancomycin
- Cephalosporins[6]

PREVENTION

- Cleansing with fresh tap water.
- Gently scrub the wound with soap and water to remove any foreign material
- Educate the fish handler's to avoid swimming during the cut injury .
- Ensure hand washing before and after taking food
- Maintain personal hygiene
- Purchase fish from reputable sources
- Quarantine all new fish for a minimum of 4 weeks.
- Avoid over crowding
- Maintain excellent water quality and perform frequent water changes.
- Wear protective gloves when cleaning fish aquaria.[7]



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