

Food poisoning after eating spring rolls made with flour contaminated by Organophosphate Powder, Ho Municipality, Volta Region, 2019

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Abstract

Background: On 30th November 2019, there was a wedding reception in Ho and 3 people died of what appeared to be food poisoning; all reportedly had eaten spring rolls from what was served at the reception. Investigation was conducted to identify the cause of poisoning and recommend prevention measures.

Method: We defined a case as a resident of the community (all attendance at the wedding reception) with onset of 1 of the following from 24th November 2019 onwards: loss of consciousness, frothing of saliva, low blood pressure, and constricted pupils. We reviewed medical and police records and interviewed survivors, physicians, district health officials, and police officers for case finding. We collected implicated foods samples for laboratory testing.

Results: We identified 7 cases with 3 deaths (case-fatality ratio= 43%) Clinical manifestations included mental confusion (100%), constricted pupils (43%), frothing of saliva (43%), and low blood pressure (43%). All 7 cases had illness onset between 1500 and 1700 hours on 30th November 2019, with a point-source exposure pattern. 86% (6/7) of the cases were men; the mean age was 24 (range: 20 – 32) years. All cases developed symptoms shortly after eating the spring rolls. The 3 deceased cases ate a whole spring rolls each; 3 of the cases who survived ate portions of the spring rolls each; 1 survived case tasted the spring roll flour only. Autopsy findings of the 3 deceased cases were consistent with organophosphate poisoning. Police investigations revealed that left-over flour from a previous wedding earlier in the year 2019 had been contaminated with organophosphate powder and later used to make the implicated spring rolls. Laboratory analysis of the flour and spring roll indicated organophosphate contamination.



Biography:

Mr Joshua Marvin Tetteh, GFELTP, School of Public Health, University of Ghana, Legon

Speaker Publications:

1. Investigation and response of foodborne outbreak in Tsito, Ho West District, Volta region - Ghana, 2017
2. Molecular Categorization of Some Water Yam (*Dioscorea alata* L.) Germplasm in Ghana Using Microsatellite (SSR) Markers
3. Increasing farmers and breeders access to yam (*Dioscorea* spp) diversity: The case of Forest-Savannah Transition Agroecology
4. Morphological Characterization of Some Water Yam (*Dioscorea alata* L.) Germplasm in Ghana
5. Phenotypic and molecular screening of cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) genotypes for resistance to cassava mosaic disease
6. Morphological and molecular based diversity studies of some cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) germplasm in Ghana
7. Design, Construction and Testing of an Evaporative Cooling Barn for Storing Sweet Potatoes in the Tropics
8. The Storage Performance of Sweet Potatoes with Different Pre-storage Treatments in an Evaporative Cooling Barn
9. Effect of pre-storage treatments on the storage of TIS 2 sweet potato variety

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