Listeria monocytogenes outbreak in Europe

Source:
ProMed [https://www.promedmail.org/](https://www.promedmail.org/)

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Since 2015 up to 8 June 2018, 47 cases of listeriosis have been confirmed in European countries, including Austria, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Nine of them resulted in death, with a case fatality rate of 19%. The food source of this outbreak was initially thought to be limited to frozen corn, but the use of whole genome sequencing found matching strains of *L. monocytogenes* in other frozen vegetables produced by a Hungarian company in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The finding suggests that the strains have persisted in the processing plant despite the cleaning and disinfection procedures that were carried out.

On 29 June 2018, the Hungarian Food Chain Safety Office banned the marketing of all frozen vegetables and frozen mixed vegetables produced by the company between August 2016 and June 2018, and ordered their immediate withdrawal and recall. All freezing activity at the plant was stopped in June 2018.

The ECDC-EFSA report calls for further investigations, including thorough sampling and testing, to identify the exact points of contamination.

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