

### Investigation of An Infant Botulism Case, 2020

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#### Abstract

In June 2020, the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (TCDC) received a case of suspected infant botulism in a 4-month-old boy. The boy experienced constipation, loss of appetite and decreased activity 10 days after the first non-staple food consumption. The diagnosis was confirmed after the botulinum nucleic acid was detected in the stool. Infant botulism cases are extremely rare in Taiwan. This is the second case of infant botulism since 2015.

In regard to treatment, botulinum antitoxin can be used to neutralize the free toxins in the serum to prevent further damage to the receptors of neuromuscular junction. The Botulinum Antitoxin Receipt Precautions updated by TCDC in 2018 contains the recommended dose for infants under 1 year old, which can be applied for after careful evaluation by clinicians. This article summarized the findings of the investigation. The purpose of the article was to remind parents that preparing non-staple food must be heated at a high temperature to destroy the botulinum toxin and spores, and to provide clinicians with reference for diagnosis and treatment of similar cases.

**Keywords:** Infant botulism, botulinum antitoxin, spores of *Clostridium botulinum*, SIADH, non-staple food preparation

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DOI: 10.6525/TEB.202112\_37(23).0001

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Received: Oct. 30, 2020

Accepted: Dec. 18, 2020