



Tularemia

The disease

Tularemia (too-lă-rē'mē-ă) is an infectious disease of animals caused by bacteria. The disease usually occurs within 3-5 days but can take up 14 days or more.

Cause

- Eating or drinking food that is infected
- Inhaling contaminated dusts or sprays
- Handling contaminated materials
- Being bitten by an infected flies or ticks

Symptoms

- Abrupt onset of fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Aches and pains of the muscles and joints
- Dry cough
- Progressive weakness

The risk

Tularemia is a disease of the Northern Hemisphere. Most cases that occur in the United States are associated with bites of an infected tick or biting flies in the summer and the handling of infected rabbits or hares in the winter. Most cases appear in the south-central and western states and have disease onsets in the summer months.

Tularemia is not spread person-to-person

Currently, the overall case-fatality rate of reported cases in the United States is less than 2%.

Treatment

Early diagnosis and treatment with antibiotics is vital.