



# TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME

(Previously listed as staphylococcal toxic shock syndrome. See also **STAPHYLOCOCCAL INFECTIONS**, **STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS**, **TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME**, and **EXANTHEMS – DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS** in Appendix A)

1. **Agent:** Toxic shock syndrome toxin-1 (TSST-1), which is produced by some strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

mailed to the diagnosing physician by ACDC staff.

2. **Identification:**

## CONTROL OF CASE, CONTACTS & CARRIERS

a. **Symptoms:** Toxic shock syndrome is a severe illness characterized by sudden onset of high fever, myalgia, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension, diffuse macular erythroderma, and multiorgan system dysfunction. Staphylococcal TSS is often associated with menstruation and tampon use in females and production of TSS-related toxins. Non-menstrual TSS cases have been associated with surgical wound infections, use of diaphragms or contraceptive sponges, and focal staphylococcal infections.

Standard isolation precautions of hospitalized patient is recommended; no additional control measures are required.

## PREVENTION-EDUCATION

Warn against continuous use of tampons during menstruation. Women who have had a previous episode of TSS should not use tampons.

b. **Differential Diagnosis:** Kawasaki disease, scarlet fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, measles, leptospirosis, and other febrile mucocutaneous diseases.

## DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES

The diagnosis of toxic shock syndrome is based on clinical findings supported by abnormal hematologic, renal, and hepatic function tests.

c. **Diagnosis:** The CDC case definition includes the following 5 criteria:

- Fever of 38.9° C (102° F) or higher.
- Presence of a diffuse macular erythroderma (a sunburn-like rash).
- Desquamation of skin 1 to 2 weeks after onset of illness.
- Hypotension (systolic blood pressure < 90 mm Hg for adults).
- Involvement of 3 or more of the following organ systems: gastrointestinal, muscular, mucous membrane, renal, hepatic, hematologic, and central nervous system.

## REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. **Reportable.** (Section 2500, California Code of Regulations.)

2. **Report Forms: TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME CASE REPORT (CDC 52.3, 6/89)** will be