

Abstract – January 27, 2004 Bureau of Epidemiology Grand Rounds

Inspiratory stridor in female students at a high school in Tampa, Florida.

Fifteen teenage girls from the same high school reported experiencing an inspiratory stridor (a high pitched, rattling noise coming from the larynx area upon inhalation) during the period of January 1 – October 31, 2003. Nine of these students had onset dates during the last two weeks of September 2003. The results of endoscopy procedures performed on the affected students showed varying degrees of inflammation of the mucosa just above the arytenoids. In addition to the inspiratory stridor, other symptoms experienced by the ill students included shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (especially after physical activity), chest pain, headaches, dizziness, numbness and tingling of the mouth or fingers and anxiety.

Of the 15 inspiratory stridor cases, 8 are members of the high school dance team, 5 are members of the high school band and 2 are not affiliated with either organization. The dance team and band members often practice and perform together, and they were all in the vicinity of polyurethane and paint fumes during a band camp held July 21-25, 2003 at the high school. The first inspiratory stridor case, however, precedes these exposures by 6 months, and two of the cases did not attend this band camp. David Atrubin, of the Florida Epidemic Intelligence Service, will present findings from this investigation.