SHELLFISH POISONING

Paralytic, Neurotoxic, Amnesic, Diarrheic



Dinoflagellates and cyanobacteria produce toxins

Shellfish filter marine water and accumulate toxins

People poisoned by eating contaminated shellfish



CHEMICAL TOXINS CAN BE FOUND IN:

Oysters, clams, mussels, scallops, and more

PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING (PSP) HAS CAUSED THE MOST FATALITIES

Symptoms: mouth numbness, muscle weakness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, possible ventilatory compromise

Severity of symptoms correlates with amount consumed

Symptom Onset: 20 min - 5 hours after ingestion

Symptom Duration: usually resolves in 24 hours

Death Occurs: Between 3.5-8 hours after onset of symptoms and is reported due to respiratory failure



COMMUNITIES AT RISK

Summertime consumption of shellfish from temperate or tropical marine coasts, especially following an algal bloom

FOOD SAFETY PROCEDURES

Regulations monitoring shellfish harvesting areas for increased toxin levels

Seek immediate medical attention if suspected poisoning and report to local health authorities



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ETHERIDGE S. M. (2010). PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING: SEAFOOD SAFETY AND HUMAN HEALTH PERSPECTIVES. TOXICON : OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON TOXINOLOGY, 56(2), 108-122. HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1016/J.TOXICON.2009.12.013

COOKING SHELLFISH DOES NOT REMOVE TOXINS!!