

FOR STUDENT USE



Instructions: Read the Patient Scenario below for clues, then use the Shellfish Poisoning Symptoms Key to determine their illness. Once the illness has been revealed, refer to the Phytoplankton Key to figure out which species of phytoplankton (and toxin) caused your patient's illness!

Patient Scenario A

25 year old, Wendy just enjoyed a delicious dinner at her favorite local seafood restaurant. She ate her fair share of oysters which did not look or taste bad. However, about 30 minutes later she drove home and once she arrived, she started to feel sick. Her symptoms included diarrhea and nausea. Luckily, after letting her body rest and recover for a few days she felt much better.

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Patient Scenario B

Daniel was celebrating his 45th birthday at a nice restaurant. For dinner he ordered the daily special which included razor clams. A few days later Daniel started to feel dizzy and had a headache. He called out sick to work and decided to stay home and rest, hoping he'd feel better soon. However, later that day he woke up confused and disoriented. He also couldn't remember much from the last few days. His wife rushed him to the hospital where his symptoms worsened and vomiting ensued and Daniel slipped into a coma.

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Patient Scenario

Nathaniel is an elderly grandfather who enjoys eating seafood. He recently visited Disney World with his grandchildren and ate shellfish for dinner. A couple of hours later his speech started to slur and his body went into convulsions. He also told his wife that he felt like he was falling (also called vertigo) and that the hot bath water felt cold. After a couple of days of staying hydrated, David's symptoms subsided and he was back to normal.

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Patient Scenario

11 year old Alexandra's favorite food is scallops. While celebrating her Father's 45th birthday at a fancy restaurant she ordered her favorite dish. Minutes after ingesting the scallops she complained of tingling in her lips and tongue. By the end of the meal her fingers and toes began to tingle too. Her parents took her to the hospital where, within a few hours, she experienced loss of limb function and paralysis of her chest and abdomen muscles.

TEACHING MATERIALS: *Teacher Key*



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Patient Scenario A:

25 year old, Wendy just enjoyed a delicious dinner at her favorite local seafood restaurant. She ate her fair share of oysters which did not look or taste bad. However, about 30 minutes later she drove home and once she arrived, she started to feel sick. Her symptoms included diarrhea and nausea. Luckily, after letting her body rest and recover for a few days she felt much better.

ANSWER: (Diarretic Shellfish Poisoning)

TEACHING MATERIALS: *Teacher Key*



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Patient Scenario B:

Daniel was celebrating his 45th birthday at a nice restaurant. For dinner he ordered the daily special which included razor clams. A few days later Daniel started to feel dizzy and had a headache. He called out sick to work and decided to stay home and rest, hoping he'd feel better soon. However, later that day he woke up confused and disoriented. He also couldn't remember much from the last few days. His wife rushed him to the hospital where his symptoms worsened and vomiting ensued and Daniel slipped into a coma.

ANSWER: (Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning)

TEACHING MATERIALS: *Teacher Key*



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Patient Scenario C:

Nathaniel is an elderly grandfather who enjoys eating seafood. He recently visited Disney World with his grandchildren and ate shellfish for dinner. A couple of hours later his speech started to slur and his body went into convulsions. He also told his wife that he felt like he was falling (also called vertigo) and that the hot bath water felt cold. After a couple of days of staying hydrated, David's symptoms subsided and he was back to normal.

ANSWER: (Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning)

TEACHING MATERIALS: *Teacher Key*



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Patient Scenario D:

11 year old Alexandra's favorite food is scallops. While celebrating her Father's 45th birthday at a fancy restaurant she ordered her favorite dish. Minutes after ingesting the scallops she complained of tingling in her lips and tongue. By the end of the meal her fingers and toes began to tingle too. Her parents took her to the hospital where, within a few hours, she experienced loss of limb function and paralysis of her chest and abdomen muscles.

ANSWER:(Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning)