

“I thought I was going blind.” Salad poisoner mistook botulism for a stroke

The number of people poisoned by vacuum-packed ready-made salads continues to grow. Among the victims is 60-year-old Anna. Two weeks ago she came to Moscow from St. Petersburg to visit. And on June 16, she ended up in the infectious diseases department of the hospital with suspected botulism. The woman's friend Julia told aif.ru about how this happened.

Julia is Anna's student friend. After college, she worked as a doctor for some time, and then began helping her husband in business. Things were going well, and now he and his daughter live in a cottage in New Moscow.

Julia invited Anna to stay. The friends were having a good time, but over the weekend Anna became very ill.

“Her head was pounding and she was nauseous. She was incredibly weak. At first it seemed to me that it was just poisoning,” recalls Yulia. — Until a friend complained that she was seeing too much double vision. We decided to call a doctor immediately.” Not just treatment. Payments due to people poisoned in public catering have been named. [Read more](#)

According to Yulia, at first the doctor could not understand what was wrong with Anna and also decided that it was just poisoning. But the next day Anna felt even worse. She complained that she could see “as if through a fog” and felt very dizzy.

“My friend had a very sore throat and it felt like her eyes were hurting. At times she gasped, as if she did not have enough air. She began to speak not very clearly. All this really scared me,” recalls Yulia. “I admit that, as a former doctor, I first wanted to help my friend myself... But when I saw what was happening, I realized that the matter was serious and I needed to rush to the hospital.”

On Sunday, on the Internet, Yulia came across news about an outbreak of botulism in Moscow. Together with her husband, they took Anna to one of the capital's hospitals. Doctors took tests from the woman and put her on treatment. At that moment she was already very weak, she began to feel dizzy and wanted to drink all the time.

“Anyu calls us every day. Now she is recovering, but she is still weak, she still speaks indistinctly, as if with difficulty. She still has pain and cloudiness in her eyes,” says Yulia. Hidden poison. The professor explained in which products botulism can be hidden [Read more](#)

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But the severe headaches went away. Anna thanks the capital’s doctors for saving her. She told her friend that at first she mistook everything that was happening to her for a stroke and thought that she would go blind or even die.

“The hospital treats my friend very attentively and sensitively. The doctor constantly asks her and other patients how they are feeling and wants them to get better quickly,” says Yulia.

According to the latest data, in Russia the number of patients with suspected botulism has reached 169 people. Of these, 121 are in Moscow. Cases of infection were identified in Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod, and the Moscow region: Khimki, Balashikha, Odintsovo, Mytishchi, Reutov and Domodedovo.

“On June 17, two patients born in 2003 and 1989 were admitted to our hospital with a diagnosis of botulism. They ate lobio with tuna. The condition upon admission was severe. “They carry out all the necessary medical measures,” Andrey Osipov, chief physician of the Domodedovo Hospital, tells aif.ru.

According to him, both girls have impaired vision and swallowing functions. Now they are in the infectious diseases department, both are conscious. Sauce, beans, tuna. Experts explained where botulism comes from in ready-made salads [Read more](#)

“The prognosis is still unclear. Let’s hope everything will be fine,” the doctor comments. “The patients’ condition is now stable and serious.”

The press service of the capital’s main headquarters of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation reported that as part of the investigation into the criminal case of poisoning on July 18, three defendants from among the management of the commercial manufacturing organization were detained. A criminal case is being investigated for the performance of work that does not meet safety requirements.