

Officials test for, but doubt, polio in Haiti

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(AP) -- Health officials are looking into the cases of four people who became paralyzed in northwestern Haiti while recovering from cholera.

The experts are trying to determine if the patients in Port-de-Paix were sickened by <u>polio</u>.

Local health authorities reported suspected cases on Jan. 10. Of four showing paralysis three died and one is hospitalized in the capital.

Officials from the Pan American Health Organization, Haiti's Ministry of Health and U.S. <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u> say they doubt polio is the cause.

PAHO spokeswoman Nyka Alexander says the surviving patient has tested negative for that disease.

But PAHO says polio vaccine was added to an upcoming vaccination campaign against diphtheria and measles in the area as a "prudent measure."

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