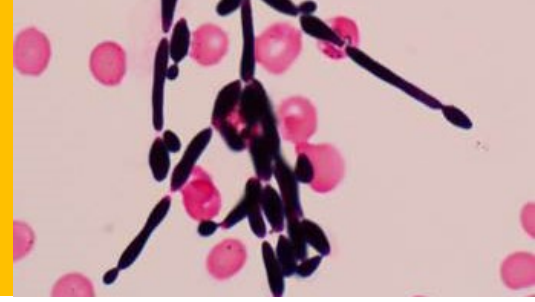


CANDIDA AURIS



***Candida auris* (*C. auris*) is a type of fungus that can make you very sick. If it gets into your bloodstream, it can be life-threatening. Often, drugs do not work against this type of germ. It has spread in health care facilities (hospitals and nursing homes) and is hard to get rid of once it is in the facility. This fungus is becoming more common. *C. auris* has been found in over 30 countries and was found in the U.S. in 2013.**



How is it spread?

- ▶ The fungus can spread in health care settings through touching a surface that has *C. auris* on it, or from person to person. Handwashing and cleaning in health care facilities is important because this fungus can live on surfaces for several weeks.
- ▶ **Healthy people do not usually get sick from *C. auris*.** It mainly makes people sick who spend a lot of time in health care settings and who already have many medical problems. Most people who get sick from *C. auris* have spent time in nursing homes and have lines and tubes that go into their body (such as breathing tubes, feeding tubes, and central venous catheters).



What are the signs and symptoms?

- ▶ You may not notice symptoms of *C. auris* because patients with this type of fungus are often already sick in the hospital with another serious illness or condition. If you do notice symptoms, they depend on which part of the body is affected.
- ▶ *C. auris* can cause many different types of infections, such as bloodstream, wound, and ear infections.



What are the treatment options?

- ▶ Most *C. auris* infections can be treated with a type of antifungal drug called echinocandins. However, some *C. auris* infections have been resistant to all three main types of antifungal medications, making them harder to treat.
- ▶ In this situation, multiple types of antifungal medications at high doses may be needed to treat the infection.



How can it be prevented?

- ▶ Special precautions need to be taken to stop the spread of *C. auris* to others. Take the following steps to reduce the chance of spreading the fungus to others in a health care setting:
 - ▶ Place the patient in a room without a roommate.
 - ▶ Wear gowns and gloves when health care workers care for the patient.
 - ▶ Practice good hand hygiene for patients, family members, and health care workers.
 - ▶ Clean rooms of patients with *C. auris* daily. Hospital grade disinfectants that are effective against *Clostridiodes difficile* spores also work against *C. auris*.

