Fungus immune to drugs a new threat

Half of patients, mostly vulnerable ones, die in 90 days; much still unknown about fungus:

Candida auris

C. auris is a deadly fungus that has been spreading worldwide. It is contributing to the surge in drug-resistant infections and is resistant to many types of antifungal medicine. It was discovered in 2009 in a British hospital.

WHY IS CANDIDA AURIS A PROBLEM?

WHAT IS CANDIDA AURIS?

When treated, the fungus can cause serious infections and can be deadly. In its most severe form, it can cause a bloodstream infection called fungemia, which can lead to a patient getting sick from the bloodstream.

Symptoms and causes of infections

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE A CANDIDA AURIS INFECTION?

A study of a Shenyang hospital found 151 patients who were infected with C. auris in 2013 and 2014. The hospital was then able to take action to prevent the spread of the fungus.

STOPPING THE SPREAD

For healthcare workers, clean hands and appropriate use of gloves and gowns. For patients, be aware of the risks to public health and be suspicious of any infection that affects the heart, brain or blood.

A deepening technique being used on the United States' Mount Sinai Hospital was found to be effective against C. auris. The fungus was treated with a new antifungal called anidor. The fungus was found to be resistant to fluconazole, but the new antifungal was effective.

Things to know about the fungus

A notorious and dangerous strain of the fungus, Candida auris has been spreading across the globe. It is resistant to many types of antifungal medication and can be deadly for patients with complications.

At least three cases in Singapore since 2012:

Disease control and prevention

In recent years, it has been found that C. auris has spread to hospitals and other healthcare facilities in countries around the world. It is a serious problem, especially in countries with weak healthcare systems.

C. auris is known to be resistant to many types of antifungal medication, including azoles, echinocandins and fluconazole. It is also resistant to some other types of antifungal medication.

B: Why aren't people being told about the risk?

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A deepening technique being used on the United States' Mount Sinai Hospital was found to be effective against C. auris. The fungus was treated with a new antifungal called anidor. The fungus was found to be resistant to fluconazole, but the new antifungal was effective.

A: My family member has been diagnosed with C. auris. What should I do?

B: The good news is that the fungus can be treated with some antifungal medications. However, it is important to follow the instructions of your healthcare provider carefully.

A: Can I get C. auris if I don't have any underlying health conditions?

B: Yes, C. auris can be a serious problem for anyone, regardless of their health status. It can be particularly dangerous for people with weakened immune systems, such as those with HIV/AIDS, cancer, or diabetes.

A: How can I reduce my risk of getting C. auris?

B: To reduce your risk of getting C. auris, you should take steps to prevent the spread of the fungus in healthcare settings. This includes washing your hands frequently, using hand sanitizer, and avoiding touching your face.

A: Is C. auris a new fungus?

B: Yes, C. auris is a relatively new fungus that has been spreading rapidly since the mid-2000s. It is a member of the yeast family and is often found in hospitals and other healthcare settings.

A: How does C. auris spread?

B: C. auris can spread through hospital environments, such as floors, furniture, and equipment. It can also be transmitted through contaminated water or air.

A: How do I know if I have C. auris?

B: C. auris can cause infections in people, but these infections are often difficult to detect. Common symptoms of C. auris infections include fever, chills, and headache.

A: What is the best treatment for C. auris?

B: The best treatment for C. auris depends on the severity of the infection and the underlying health of the patient. Some patients may be treated with antifungal medications, while others may require hospitalization.

A: Is there a vaccine for C. auris?

B: There is no vaccine currently available for C. auris. However, researchers are working to develop vaccines that could prevent the spread of the fungus in the future.

A: What should I do if I suspect I have C. auris?

B: If you believe you may have C. auris, it is important to seek medical attention immediately. Your healthcare provider can perform tests to determine if you have the fungus and can recommend appropriate treatment.