

Health Alert: Outbreak of Suspected Fungal Meningitis May 24, 2023

Situational Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a health advisory on May 17, 2023 regarding an outbreak of suspected fungal meningitis among U.S. patients hospitalized – with several leading to death – after undergoing cosmetic procedures under epidural anesthesia in the city of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. All of these affected patients underwent cosmetic procedures under epidural anesthesia at two clinics in Matamoros, Mexico, including River Side Surgical Center and Clinica K-3. Other facilities may be identified from further investigation. A fungal etiology was suspected based on elevated cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) levels of the fungal biomarker (1,3)-beta-D-glucan in at least one patient. The Mexican national laboratory has also identified the fungus *Fusarium solani* among four patients in Mexico.

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) is recommending that both symptomatic and asymptomatic persons who have undergone cosmetic procedures under epidural anesthesia in Matamoros, Mexico since January 1, 2023 to be evaluated at the emergency department.

Actions Requested of Health Care Providers

For both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients, perform the following tests:

- Diagnostic lumbar puncture (LP), unless contraindicated (e.g., skin infection over puncture site, brain mass causing increased intracranial pressure). See guidance below for additional information.
- Brain imaging, ideally an MRI with and without contrast, to assess for meningeal enhancement, vasculitis, stenosis, hemorrhage, or ischemia.

Recommendations for asymptomatic patients with normal LP (CSF WBC \leq 5)

- Empiric antifungals therapy is not recommended.
- Consider a second diagnostic LP in two weeks.
- Closely monitor for symptoms, including fever, headache, nausea/vomiting, photophobia, and altered mental status. Repeat LP if symptoms develop.

Recommendations for asymptomatic patients with abnormal LP (CSF WBC $>$ 5)

- Consult with an infectious disease specialist.

Recommendations for symptomatic patients with abnormal LP (CSF WBC $>$ 5)

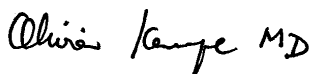
- Treat with broad-spectrum, dual antifungals with adequate central nervous system (CNS) penetration, such as liposomal amphotericin B and voriconazole.
- Initiate treatment as soon as possible after obtaining CSF. If fungal meningitis is suspected, treatment should not be withheld even if fungal cultures or (1,3)-beta-D-glucan results are negative.

Report all suspected fungal meningitis cases, especially those related to this outbreak, immediately to SCPH via phone at (916) 875-5881.

Resources:

1. CDC Health Advisory: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00491.asp>
2. Interim Recommendations for Diagnosis and Management of Cases of Suspected Fungal Meningitis Associated with Epidural Anesthesia Administered in Matamoros, Mexico: https://funguseducationhub.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/interim-guidance-Matamoros-FM-outbreak-5_23_23_posting-version.pdf

Sincerely,



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