



STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE INVASIVE DISEASE

WHAT IS INVASIVE GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL (GAS) DISEASE?

INVASIVE GAS DISEASE IS A SEVERE AND SOMETIMES LIFE-THREATENING INFECTION IN WHICH BACTERIA HAVE INVADED PARTS OF THE BODY, SUCH AS THE BLOOD, DEEP MUSCLE AND FAT TISSUE OR THE LUNGS. TWO OF THE MOST SEVERE, BUT LEAST COMMON FORMS OF INVASIVE GAS DISEASE ARE CALLED NECROTIZING FASCIITIS, WHICH IS AN INFECTION OF MUSCLE AND FAT TISSUE, AND STREPTOCOCCAL TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME, AN INFECTION CAUSING LOW BLOOD PRESSURE/SHOCK AND INJURY TO ORGANS SUCH AS THE KIDNEYS, LIVER AND LUNGS.

WHO GETS INVASIVE GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE?

ALTHOUGH HEALTHY PEOPLE CAN GET INVASIVE GAS DISEASE, PEOPLE WITH ILLNESSES LIKE CANCER AND DIABETES, ARE AT HIGHER RISK. APPROXIMATELY 10,000-15,000 CASES OF INVASIVE GAS DISEASE OCCUR IN THE UNITED STATES EACH YEAR CAUSING MORE THAN 2,000 DEATHS.

HOW ARE GROUP A STREPTOCOCCI SPREAD?

THESE BACTERIA ARE SPREAD BY DIRECT CONTACT WITH NOSE AND THROAT DISCHARGES OF AN INFECTED INDIVIDUAL OR WITH INFECTED SKIN LESIONS. CUTS AND WOUNDS CAN PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE BACTERIA TO ENTER THE BODY.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF INVASIVE GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE?

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE SHARP CHEST PAIN, CHILLS, A RUNNY NOSE, FEVER, COUGH, AND THE PERSON FEELS SICK AND OFTEN SHORT OF BREATH.

CAN INVASIVE GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE BE TREATED?

GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS BACTERIA CAN BE TREATED WITH COMMON, INEXPENSIVE MEDICATIONS. ALONG WITH MEDICATION, SUPPORTIVE CARE IN A HOSPITAL AND SOMETIMES SURGERY ARE NECESSARY WITH THESE DISEASES. EARLY TREATMENT MAY REDUCE THE RISK OF DEATH BUT THERAPY DOES NOT PREVENT DEATH IN EVERY CASE.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP PREVENT INVASIVE GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS?

THE SPREAD OF ALL TYPES OF GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS MAY BE REDUCED BY GOOD HAND WASHING, ESPECIALLY AFTER COUGHING AND SNEEZING, AND BEFORE PREPARING FOODS AND BEFORE EATING. PERSONS WITH SORE THROATS SHOULD BE SEEN BY A DOCTOR TO SEE IF THEY HAVE STREP THROAT; IF SO, THEY SHOULD STAY HOME FROM WORK, SCHOOL OR DAYCARE UNTIL AFTER 24 HOURS OR MORE AFTER TAKING MEDICATION. ALL WOUNDS SHOULD BE KEPT CLEAN AND WATCHED FOR SIGNS OF INFECTION.