

Candida auris

What is Candida auris?

- Candida auris (also known as C. auris) is a fungus that can cause serious illness in hospitalized people
- C. auris can infect many parts of the body; common types include bloodstream infections, wound infections, and ear infections
- The most common symptoms of a serious infection are fever and chills that don't improve after treatment with antibiotics
- C. auris can spread in healthcare settings through contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment, or from person-to-person

Why is C. auris in the news?

- It is often multidrug-resistant, meaning that many antifungal drugs commonly used to treat Candida infections may not be effective
- It is difficult to identify and can be misidentified in labs without specific technology, which may lead to inappropriate management
- Since it has caused outbreaks in healthcare settings, it is important to quickly identify C. auris in a hospitalized patient so that healthcare facilities can take special precautions to stop its spread
- The number of cases and positive screenings are increasing here in Cuyahoga County and across the United States

Who is most likely to get C. auris?

- People who have frequent or long-term stays in hospitals or nursing homes
- People who have lines and tubes that go into their body, such as breathing tubes, feeding tubes and central venous catheters
- Other risk factors may include diabetes, those who recently underwent surgery, or broad-spectrum antibiotic and antifungal use
- ***C. auris currently poses a low risk to the general public***

How is C. auris diagnosed and treated?

- A laboratory test (culture of blood or other bodily fluids) is needed to determine if a patient has a C. auris infection
- Infections can be treated with antifungal medicine, though some C. auris infections are resistant to antifungal medicine, making them difficult to treat
- Patients with C. auris in healthcare facilities are placed under special precautions to prevent the spread of the fungus

Are families of infected individuals at risk?

- Healthy family members and close contacts of infected individuals have a low chance of infection
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) do not generally recommend testing for family members or close contacts of infected individuals

For more information: www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris.