

### What is *Candida auris* (*C. auris*)?

*C. auris* is type of yeast (fungus) that causes severe illness mainly in hospitalized patients and is often resistant to many types of antibiotics. *C. auris* was first discovered in 2009. It has spread quickly and caused infections around the world, especially outbreaks in healthcare facilities.

### How is *C. auris* spread?

*C. auris* can spread from patient to patient in healthcare settings, such as hospitals and nursing homes, by direct contact. It might also spread by contact with contaminated surfaces in the environment. Patients can carry *C. auris* on their skin without knowing it or have any symptoms of infection, but can still spread it to others. This is called colonization.

In the United States, *C. auris* infection has been primarily identified in people with serious underlying medical conditions who have received multiple antibiotics, and who have been in a healthcare setting, such as a hospital or long-term care facility, for a long time.

### What are the signs and symptoms of *C. auris*?

The most common symptoms of invasive *Candida* infection are fever and chills that do not improve after antibiotic treatment for a suspected bacterial infection.

### How long after infection do symptoms appear?

Scientists do not know how long it takes for symptoms to appear. It can vary from patient to patient.

### Who is most at risk?

Patients who have been hospitalized in a healthcare facility a long time, have a central venous catheter, or other lines or tubes entering their body, or have previously received antibiotics or antifungal medications appear to be at highest risk of infection with this yeast.

### What type of health problems are caused by *C. auris*?

In some patients, *C. auris* can enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body, causing serious bloodstream infections and even death.

### How is *C. auris* diagnosed?

It is difficult to identify. Your healthcare provider can diagnose *C. auris* by a specific type of laboratory test. *C. auris* can be misidentified as other types of fungi unless specialized laboratory testing is used.

### How is *C. auris* treated?

Most *C. auris* infections are treated with antifungal medicines. Sometimes, *C. auris* infections might be resistant to all three major types of antifungal medicines. For these rare cases, treatment options are severely limited.

## How can *C. auris* be prevented?

Follow these tips to prevent *C. auris* infection:

- Regularly wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (if hands are not visibly soiled) to keep them clean.
- Family members and others caring for patients with *C. auris* should wash their hands thoroughly before and after touching the patient or touching medical devices.
- Handwashing is particularly important if the caregiver is caring for more than one ill person at home.
- Ask and remind healthcare personnel and caregivers to wash their hands.
- Use gloves when contact with body fluids or blood is possible.
- Healthcare providers should follow infection prevention and control measures, such as the proper use of gowns and gloves.

- Because *C. auris* can live on surfaces in healthcare environments, regular cleaning and disinfection of the environment with products that are effective against *C. auris* are also important.
- When a patient with *C. auris* is transferred to another healthcare facility, the receiving facility should be notified of the patient's infection or colonization status so that the appropriate infection prevention and control measures can be promptly used.

## Where can I get more information?

- Your personal healthcare provider
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fungal Diseases](#)

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