



Fact Sheet

ANTHRAX: What You Need to Know

What Is Anthrax?

Anthrax is a serious disease caused by bacteria that forms spores. Anthrax can make you sick by getting into your skin, lungs or digestive system. It can be deadly if untreated.

How Do You Get Anthrax?

People can get anthrax from touching or eating an infected animal or breathing in spores from an infected animal. Anthrax can also be used as a weapon. In 2001, 22 people got sick when anthrax was put into the mail.

You cannot catch anthrax from another person or spread it to others.

What Happens If I Get Anthrax?

People usually get sick within 1 to 7 days of exposure to anthrax, but if it is in your lungs it may take 42 days before you get sick.

It may cause your skin to blister or have sores. You may have a sore throat, fever, headache, cough and breathing problems.

You will need to be treated with medicine because anthrax can cause serious illness or death.

How Is Anthrax Treated?

There is no way to test for anthrax before you get sick.

Antibiotics are used to treat all types of anthrax.

Health-care workers will give you medicine (doxycycline or ciprofloxacin). This medicine can help prevent an anthrax infection, even if you don't feel sick.

You may have to take this medicine for 60 days. The medicine can cause nausea, diarrhea, headache or a yeast infection (women only), but it is important that you keep taking the medicine until it is gone.

Children have to take different amounts of the medicine than adults. Health-care workers have information on how to give medicine to children and babies.

疾病常識

炭疽病基本常識

什麼是炭疽病？

炭疽病是細菌導致的嚴重疾病，此類細菌會形成菌孢。炭疽病可透過皮膚、肺或消化系統進入人體，導致發病。如果不加治療，可致死亡。

炭疽病是如何感染的？

觸摸或食用感染炭疽病的動物，或吸入感染炭疽病的動物釋放的菌孢，均會感染炭疽病。炭疽病亦可用作生物武器。2001年，美國有22人因收到炭疽郵件而感染炭疽病。

炭疽病不會發生人際傳染。

得了炭疽病會有什麼後果？

接觸炭疽病後，一般在1至7天內發病，如果是肺部感染炭疽病，則可能42天才發病。可導致皮膚起水疱或潰瘍。可能有喉嚨疼、發燒、頭痛、咳嗽和呼吸困難等症狀。

炭疽病可導致嚴重疾病或死亡，必須接受藥物治療。

如何治療炭疽病？

炭疽病發病前無法化驗檢查。

抗生素用於治療各類炭疽病。

醫療人員會讓您服用藥物（doxycycline或ciprofloxacin）。此類藥物可協助預防感染炭疽病，即使您未感到不適。

此藥物須服用60天。藥物可導致噁心、腹瀉、頭痛或酵母菌感染（僅婦女），但必須堅持服完藥物。

兒童的使用劑量與成年人不同。醫療人員會說明如何給兒童和嬰兒服用藥物。