

The Truth about Cellulitis and Necrotizing Fasciitis

What is it?

Cellulitis and Necrotizing Fasciitis is a bacterial infection that is characterized by sudden and intense pain from destruction of tissue and a high rate of death.

Do I have it?

- Signs can include fever, fast heart beat, dizzy or light-headed, tense swelling outside the involved skin, disproportionate pain, blisters, and crackling or popping sounds under the skin
- Risk factors include drug use, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and weakened immune system.
- Infections can also come from breaking the skin barrier (gunshot, knife wounds, injection drug use and burns)
- Common sites of infection are feet (in diabetics), head and neck, and pelvic region (between the legs)

How can I protect myself?

- Avoid direct contact with people who have skin infections
- Wash hands often and keep wounds clean
- Unexplained pain, which increases rapidly over time, may be the first sign of necrotizing fasciitis. You must go to the emergency room to prevent amputation and death

What do I do if I already have it?

- Seek treatment from a doctor immediately if you have any signs of sepsis from Necrotizing Fasciitis (fever, chills, shaking, nausea, vomiting, night sweats, confusion)
- They can must perform surgery to remove the dead tissue and give you antibiotics

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