

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CANDIDA AURIS

What is *Candida auris*?

Candida auris (also called *C. auris*) is a yeast that can cause serious infections. *C. auris* is often resistant to antifungal medications and can spread from one patient to another in hospitals and nursing homes. Patients can carry *C. auris* somewhere on their body, even if it is not making them sick. This is called colonization. When people in hospitals and nursing homes are colonized, *C. auris* can spread from their bodies and can get on other people or nearby objects, allowing the fungus to spread to people around them.

Who gets *C. auris*?

Healthy people usually don't get a *C. auris*. You are more at risk if you get a lot of medical care, have tubes or devices going into your body, or live in a healthcare facility. People taking antibiotics for a long time, or many times, may be more likely to get *C. auris*. People who receive medical care in areas where *C. auris* are more common (in other states or internationally) are more likely to get a *C. auris*. Not everyone who has *C. auris* gets sick from it.

Can *C. auris* be treated?

Yes. Antifungal options that will work against *C. auris* are limited. People who are colonized with *C. auris* (i.e., they have the germ, but are not sick) do not need to be treated.

What can I do to prevent the spread of *C. auris*?

If it is recommended for you, get tested for *C. auris*. If you test positive, it is important that you and the people that care for you wash their hands. Healthcare staff may also need to wear gloves and gowns so they don't carry the yeast with them after providing you care.

WHY AM I BEING TESTED?

You may have been exposed recently to a person who was cared for at a facility that has *C. auris*. Testing you will help us know if this yeast has spread to others and prevent it from spreading further. Preventing the spread is very important so that this resistant yeast doesn't become common in our community.

What is the test?

People carry this kind of germ on their skin. The best way to test for *C. auris* is to swab your armpits and groin. A healthcare provider will rub a soft swab that looks like a Q-tip over your armpits and groin. It is not painful. You can use the swab yourself, but it may lower our ability to find this yeast.

How will I get the results?

We'll have a result within a few days. If you test positive, the health department will call you and let you know. We'll also share the information with your medical team. If you test negative, you won't hear from us.

Do I have a choice to be tested?

Yes, providing a swab is voluntary. You can choose not to get tested. However, knowing if you carry *C. auris* can help your doctor make better treatment decisions for you.

Resources

Learn more: www.cdc.gov/candida-auris/screening/

Contact the Oregon HAI Program: healthoregon.org/hai