

Blastomycosis

Epidemiology

Source: Spores in moist soil, decomposing organic matter

Transmission

- Inhalation of spores
- Person-to-person transmission NOT possible

Incubation:
30-45 days

Clinical case definition

- Asymptomatic in 50% of cases
- Flu-like symptoms- Fever, chills, cough, muscle aches, joint pain, chest pain
- Can spread to skin & bones in serious cases
- Nodular, verrucous, or ulcerative skin lesions
- Weight loss

High Risk:

Immunocompromised, diabetes

Epi Profile:

- Southeastern states & Central states
- Midwestern states bordering Great Lakes
- Yearly Incidence: 1-2 cases per 100,000 people in endemic areas

Diagnosis

Microbiology: *Blastomyces dermatidis* = dimorphic fungus. Yeast form at 37°C, and mycelial form at room temperature and in soil. Conidia infectious to humans.

Confirmed: Clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed

Lab Diagnosis

- **Culture:** Thick-walled, figure-eight shaped, broad-based, single budding yeast forms may be found in blood, sputum, tracheal aspirates, cerebrospinal fluid, urine, bone marrow
- Serologic tests lack adequate sensitivity, so all efforts should be made to obtain appropriate specimen for culture.

Report to Louisiana Dept. of Health

Treatment, Prophylaxis

Treatment

- Amphotericin B for life-threatening infection
- Oral itraconazole or fluconazole for mild or moderately severe infections
- Oral therapy usually continued for six months to a year for pulmonary and extrapulmonary disease

No vaccine available

Standard precautions

Control

People at increased risk for infection in endemic areas include:

- Farmers
- Forestry workers
- Hunters
- Campers

Be cautious of soil in areas around rotting wood or leaves. Avoid wooded areas if immunocompromised.