



Superbugs part two

candida auris

What's in a Name?

Auris is the Latin word for ear. Despite its name, *C. auris* can also affect many other regions of the body and can cause invasive infections, including bloodstream infections and wound infections.



“We haven’t seen [*C. auris*] in the general community.
It’s mainly a hospital-acquired infection.”

Peter Pappas, M.D.

(Professor of Medicine in the Infectious Disease Division at the University of Alabama, and Spokesman for the Infectious Disease Society of America)



Facts:

- It may be difficult to distinguish its symptoms from those of other medical conditions.
- The most common signs are fever and chills that don’t improve after antibiotic treatment for suspected bacterial infections. – Chiller (CDC)
- Blood tests are usually used to diagnose invasive *Candida* infections.
 - Hospital staff should use a special laboratory test called matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight ([MALDI-TOF](#))

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Protective Steps

WASH YOUR HANDS
and insist that the medical staff do the same.

SPEAK UP
if others aren't washing their hands correctly.

When To Wash

- When entering the room
- After touching the patient
- Even when wearing gloves!

ASK WHETHER IT'S NECESSARY
to be put on IV antibiotics in the ICU.

“Antibiotic therapy, specifically IV antibiotics, is a significant risk factor [for any invasive candida], both the number of different antibiotics and length of therapy.”

David Denning, M.D.
Professor of Diseases in Global Health and the University Hospital of South Manchester

MAKE SURE the hospital is cleaning properly.
The CDC recommends an [EPA registered hospital-grade disinfectant that is effective against c. diff spores.](#)

**No research available yet specifically for a C. auris disinfectant*

ASK if any patients in the facility have C. auris...and what their precautionary measures are.