

Klebsiella

What is Klebsiella?

Klebsiella can cause different types of healthcare-associated infections, including pneumonia, bloodstream infections, wound or surgical site infections, and meningitis. Increasingly, Klebsiella bacteria have developed antimicrobial resistance, most recently to the class of antibiotics known as carbapenems. Klebsiella bacteria are normally found in the human intestines (where they do not cause disease). They are also found in human feces. In healthcare settings, Klebsiella infections commonly occur among sick patients who are receiving treatment for other conditions. Patients whose care requires devices like ventilators or intravenous (vein) catheters, and patients who are taking long courses of certain antibiotics are most at risk for Klebsiella infections. Healthy people usually do not get Klebsiella infections.

What kind of germ is Klebsiella?

To get a Klebsiella infection, a person must be exposed to the bacteria. For example, Klebsiella must enter the respiratory (breathing) tract to cause pneumoniae, or the blood to cause a bloodstream infection. In healthcare settings, Klebsiella bacteria can be spread through person-to-person contact or, less commonly, by contamination of the environment. The bacteria are not spread through the air. Patients in healthcare settings also may be exposed to Klebsiella when they are on ventilators or have intravenous (vein) catheters or wounds. Unfortunately, these medical tools and conditions may allow Klebsiella to enter the body and cause infection.

How can Klebsiella be diagnosed?

First step is to see a healthcare provider. Follow whatever instructions that they provide.

How can Klebsiella be treated?

Follow the instructions of your healthcare provider. Only some Klebsiella bacteria is drug-resistant so it can be cured by antibiotics.

Are there any long-term effects of Klebsiella?

Long-term effects of Klebsiella are highly uncommon since even healthy people have a very rare chance of obtaining the disease.

How can humans get Klebsiella?

Humans must be exposed to the bacteria to get it. Klebsiella must enter the respiratory (breathing) tract to cause pneumoniae, or the blood to cause a bloodstream infection.

How to prevent Klebsiella

Proper handwashing techniques are the first line of defense in preventing Klebsiella. You should wash your hands before; Before preparing or eating food, before touching their eyes, nose, or mouth, before and after changing wound dressings or bandages, after using the restroom, after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing, after touching hospital surfaces such as bed rails, bedside tables, doorknobs, remote controls, or the phone.