

Mycetoma

April 26, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Mycetoma Latest News

The world's only research centre on mycetoma, a neglected tropical disease common among farmers, has been destroyed in Sudan's two-year war, its director and another expert say.

About Mycetoma

- It is a **chronic, progressively destructive infectious disease of the subcutaneous tissues**, that **spreads to affect the skin, deep tissues and bone**.
- It was first reported in the mid-19th century in Madurai, India, and hence was initially called Madura foot.
- It is a unique **neglected tropical disease caused by** a substantial number of microorganisms of **fungal or bacterial origins**.
- The disease **commonly affects young adults**, mostly males aged between 15 and 30 years in developing countries.

Mycetoma Distribution

- Mycetoma occurs in **tropical and subtropical environments** characterized by **short rainy seasons and prolonged dry seasons** that favour the growth of thorny bushes.
- The **causative organisms** of mycetoma are distributed worldwide but are **endemic in tropical and subtropical areas** in the so called '**Mycetoma belt**', which includes, among others, the Bolivarian Republic of **Venezuela, Chad, Ethiopia, India, Mauritania**, Mexico, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, **Thailand**, and Yemen.

Mycetoma Transmission

- Transmission occurs when the causative organism **enters the body through minor trauma or a penetrating injury**, commonly thorn pricks.
- There is a clear association between mycetoma and **individuals who walk barefooted** and are **manual workers**.

Mycetoma Symptoms

- Symptoms are **similar for bacterial and fungal mycetoma**.
- Both **appear as firm, painless masses under the skin**. These masses **usually appear on a person's foot** but can form anywhere on the body.
- Mycetoma masses **start small**, but **over time they can grow larger** and **develop oozing sores**.
- The **affected limb can become deformed** or unusable.
- The discharge from the **oozing sores can contain sand-like particles called "grains,"** that can be white, yellow, red, brown, or black.
- **If left untreated** or treatment fails, it can **spread to other areas** of the body and even **result in blood infections**.
- **Long-term mycetoma** can eventually **destroy the underlying muscle** and bone.

Mycetoma Treatment

For bacterial mycetoma, treatment consists of a combination of **antibiotics**, whereas for **fungal mycetoma**, treatment consists of a combination of **antifungal drugs and surgery**.

Mycetoma FAQs

Q1. What causes mycetoma?

Ans. Mycetoma is a disease caused by certain types of bacteria and fungi found in soil, plant matter, and water.

Q2. How does Mycetoma usually enter the human body?

Ans. Penetrating injuries like thorn pricks

Q3. In which part of the body does Mycetoma most commonly begin?

Ans. Foot

Source: ET

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/mycetoma/>

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