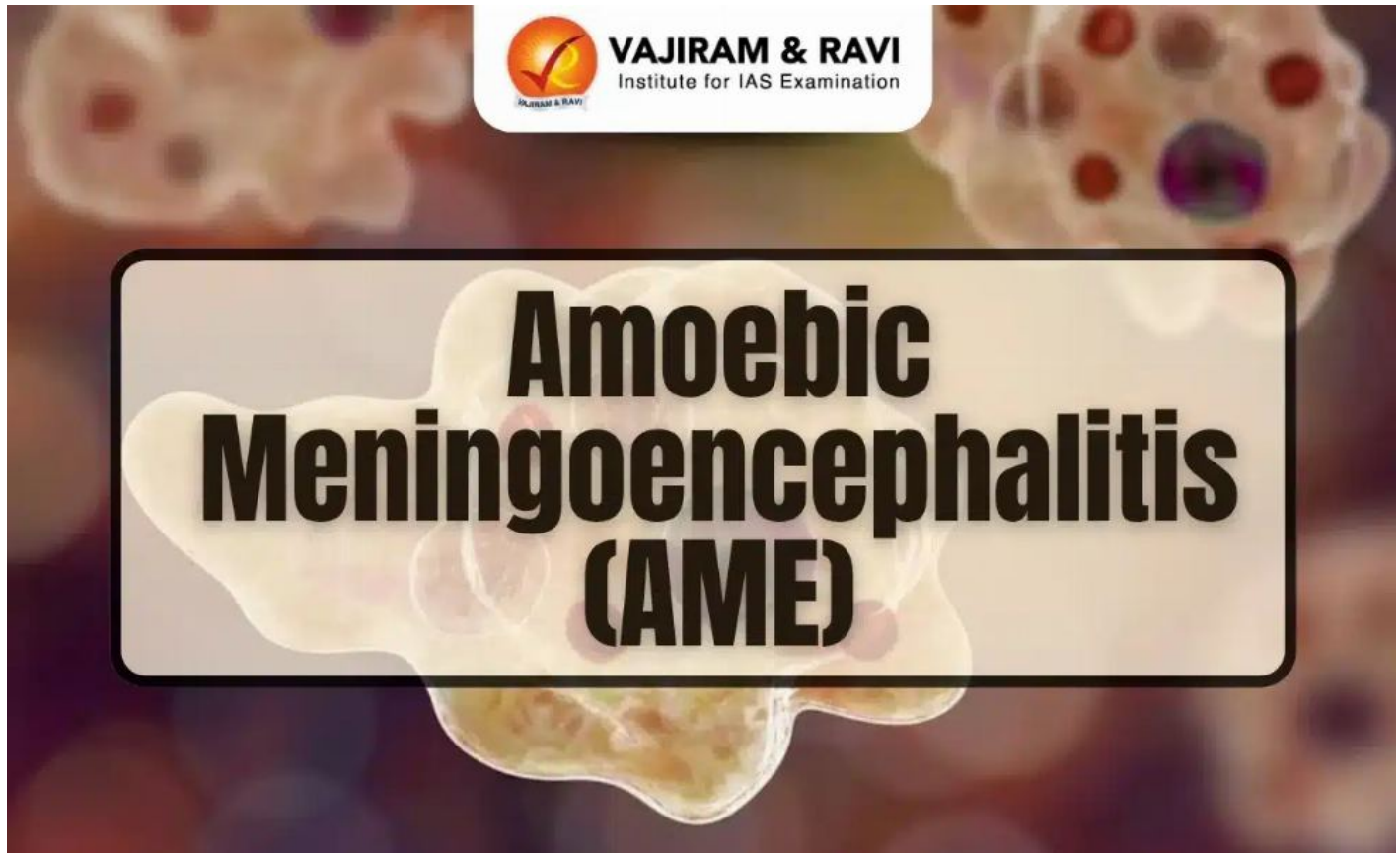


Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (AME)

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Amoebic Meningoencephalitis Latest News

The Kerala State Public Health Laboratory, one of the apex referral laboratories in Kerala, recently developed its own molecular diagnostic test kits to identify five common species of free-living amoeba (FLA) which are toxic to humans and which can cause amoebic meningoencephalitis.

About Amoebic Meningoencephalitis

- It is an **infection of the brain** and the **membranes covering the brain** (which are called the **meninges**).
- It is **caused by free-living amoebae** (a microscopic single-celled organism) **found in water**.
- This is a **very rare**, but serious disease with a **mortality rate of more than 95%**.
- It **affects mainly young, active people**.
- It is classified into **two main types: Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)** and **Granulomatous Amebic Encephalitis (GAE)**.
 - **PAM** is **caused by Naegleria fowleri**, while **GAE** is typically **associated with Acanthamoeba species and Balamuthia mandrillaris**.

- **PAM** tends to **progress rapidly** and is **often fatal within a few days**, whereas **GAE develops more slowly** but is **equally deadly** if not treated promptly.

Amoebic Meningoencephalitis Transmission

- The **amoeba** that causes the infection **occurs in shallow surface waters** and incorrectly maintained **swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas, particularly in warm climates**.
- **Swimming in salt water** has **not been associated with this disease**.
- **Infection occurs when infected water enters the nose**. This can happen when diving, jumping, or swimming in freshwater.
- The **amoeba** then **invades the brain and meninges** through the nose.

Amoebic Meningoencephalitis Symptoms

- sore throat
- headache and pain in the forehead
- hallucinations (sensory experiences that are created in the mind)
- confusion
- nausea and vomiting
- **high fever**
- **neck stiffness and pain**
- **disturbances of taste and smell**
- **seizures (fits)**

Amoebic Meningoencephalitis Treatment

Swift diagnosis and treatment with specific **antibiotics** may be useful, but **recovery is rare**.

Amoebic Meningoencephalitis FAQs

Q1. What is Amoebic Meningoencephalitis?

Ans. An infection of the brain and meninges caused by amoebae.

Q2. Which form of Amoebic Meningoencephalitis is caused by *Naegleria fowleri*?

Ans. Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)

Q3. What is the mortality rate for Amoebic Meningoencephalitis?

Ans. More than 95%.

Source: **TH**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/amoebic-meningoencephalitis-ame/>

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