

LEGIONELLOSIS, NOSOCOMIAL, FATAL - USA: (GEORGIA)

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A ProMED-mail post <<http://www.promedmail.org>>

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<[http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/Spike\\_in\\_Legionnaires\\_Disease\\_at\\_Grady\\_020509](http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/Spike_in_Legionnaires_Disease_at_Grady_020509)>

Grady Hospital officials said Thursday [5 Feb 2009] that there has been a spike of Legionnaire's Disease. Hospital officials said they have seen as many patients with the condition this month as they have the entire year last year [2008]. Grady Hospital officials said they were taking precautions and have shut down 2 hospital units.

Legionnaire's Disease is a type of pneumonia that is treated with antibiotics. At Grady [Hospital], there have [been] 4 cases since the beginning of the year [2009]. Legionnaire's Disease is caused by bacteria [Legionella pneumophila], usually in water. The disease got its name in 1976 when people at an American Legion convention [in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania] suffered from an outbreak.

The condition can be deadly, but it isn't transmitted by drinking water or from person to person. "It has to get into the lungs; [they] have to inhale the mist. Taking a shower, that would be a place people could potentially get it," said Dr. Curtis Lewis, Chief Medical Officer.

[Legionella pneumophila] can be present in large plumbing or air conditioning systems. Grady is trying to determine if disease is coming from inside the hospital by testing the water. "What we're concerned about is trying to find a location. Was there a common area these patients had access to?" asked Dr. Lewis.

While testing is being done to find if the bacteria is coming from within the hospital, a unit on the 11th floor was shut down as a precaution. It was determined that all 4 patients were in the same unit within the last 4 weeks.

"We're emptying out a 2nd unit where one patient was. We've done everything proactively to protect patients and staff. And notified positions to be aware to recognize symptoms in any patient," said Dr. Lewis.

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[A discussion of legionellosis can be found in Mod.ML's comments in ProMED-mail post Legionellosis, neonatal, nosocomial, fatal - Cyprus: susp. 20090102.0011.

The city of Atlanta, Georgia can be located on the HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of the USA at <<http://healthmap.org/promed/en?g=4862182&g=4896861&v=40,-89.5,5>>. - Mod.ML]

[see also:

Legionellosis, neonatal, nosocomial, fatal - Cyprus: susp. 20090102.0011

2008

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Legionellosis - USA (03): (NJ) nosocomial, fatal 20081005.3149

2005

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Legionellosis, hospital acquired - USA (NY) (03) 20050719.2082 Legionellosis, hospital acquired - USA (NY) (02) 20050718.2062 Legionellosis, hospital acquired - USA (NY) 20050715.2021 Legionellosis, nosocomial - Spain (Barcelona) 20050302.0646

2004

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Legionellosis, hospital - Spain (Zaragoza) (02) 20040630.1743 Legionellosis, hospital - Spain (Zaragoza) 20040621.1651] .....ml/ejp/mpp