Fungal Meningitis

Contaminated injections kill

At least 5 patients have been killed, and more than 35 sickened, by fungal meningitis, a very rare, serious, and difficult to treat disease. Compounded steroid epidural injections are believed to have been contaminated with the fungus.

“When it became clear that the infection control practices at the clinic were up to par, the steroid medication became implicated.” William Shaffner Chair of Vanderbilt Department of Preventive Medicine

Fungus introduction to nervous system

AND

Drug contaminated with fungus

OR

Drug component contaminated with fungus

Inject prepared by compounding company

Adequate oversight?

AND

Not subject to same standards as drug companies

Evidence: Source of contamination

Evidence: CDC

Timeline

Date
September 23, 2004
January 19, 2005
December 4, 2006
July 1, 2007
July 30, 2012
September 18, 2012
September 20, 2012
September 26, 2012
October 3, 2012

Description
Compounding company inspected by FDA
Inspection completed
Letter from FDA to compounding company regarding concerns resulting from inspection
Beginning of use of drugs from infected lots
Dr. Pettit of Vanderbilt diagnoses the first case of the fungal meningitis
Neurosurgery clinic in Tennessee closes down
Compounding company told of issue with injections
Compounding company voluntarily recalled 3 lots
North Carolina suspended compounding company’s license to do business in the state