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DPHHS HAN Advisory

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System
Tuesday, May 29, 2007 2:30 PM

Early Report of Serious Eye Infections Associated with Soft Contact Lens Solution

Action Requested

- Clinicians evaluating contact lens users with symptoms of eye pain or redness, tearing, decreased visual acuity, discharge, sensitivity to light, or foreign body sensation should consider *Acanthamoeba keratitis* (AK).
- Suspect cases of AK should be referred to an ophthalmologist, if appropriate.
- Clinicians or microbiology laboratories should report cases of AK to their local health department.

Background

CDC has notified state health agencies of an outbreak of a serious but rare eye infection called *Acanthamoeba keratitis* (AK). This infection is caused by a free-living amoeba (*Acanthamoeba*) a microscopic organism found everywhere in nature. Infections can result in permanent visual impairment or blindness. AK primarily affects otherwise healthy people, most of whom wear contact lenses. In the United States, an estimated 85% of cases of this infection occur in contact lens users. The incidence of the disease in the U.S. is approximately one to two cases per million contact lens users.

CDC has received reports of 138 cases of culture-confirmed AK in 35 states and Puerto Rico. Preliminary information obtained by CDC from patient interviews indicates that, among soft contact lens users who reported the use of any type of solution, 21 (58%) reported having used Advanced Medical Optics (AMO) Complete^R MoisturePlusTM Multi-Purpose Solution in the month prior to symptom onset. In response, the manufacturer on May 26, 2007, voluntarily recalled the product.

People who wear soft contact lenses who use Advanced Medical Optics (AMO) Complete^R MoisturePlusTM Multi-Purpose Solution should:

- Stop using the product immediately and discard all remaining solution including partially used or unopened bottles. Choose an alternative contact lens solution.
- Discard current lens storage container.
- Discard current pair of soft lenses.
- See a healthcare provider if experiencing any signs of eye infection: Eye pain, eye redness, blurred vision, sensitivity to light, sensation of something in the eye, or excessive tearing.

Clinicians evaluating contact lens users with symptoms of eye pain or redness, tearing, decreased visual acuity, discharge, sensitivity to light, or foreign body sensation should consider AK and refer the patient to an ophthalmologist, if appropriate. Diagnosis requires a high degree of suspicion, especially in a contact lens wearer with a recent diagnosis of another form of keratitis, such as herpes simplex virus keratitis, who is not responding to therapy. Diagnosis is made on the basis of clinical picture and isolation of organisms from corneal culture or detection of trophozoites and/or cysts on histopathology. However, a negative culture does not necessarily rule out *Acanthamoeba* infection. Early diagnosis can greatly improve treatment efficacy. Clinicians should consider obtaining clinical specimens (e.g., corneal scrapings) for culture before initiating treatment. Clinicians or microbiology laboratories should report cases to their local health department.

For instructions on collecting and submitting laboratory specimens, contact the Montana Public Health Laboratories at 1-800-821-7284

For more information, see the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/acanthamoeba/index.htm>

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The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information of immediate utility relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the DPHHS HAN Coordinator, Gerry Wheat at <<mailto:gwheat@mt.gov>>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

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