

# What is Necrotizing Myositis / Fasciitis?

Necrotizing Myositis, also known as necrotizing fasciitis and sometimes referred to as a “flesh-eating bug”, is a very serious but rare bacterial infection that spreads quickly and kills the body’s soft tissue and fascia (a sheath of tissue covering the muscle).

**Urgent medical care is required because Necrotizing Myositis is a potentially fatal disease.**

## Signs and Symptoms

Early signs of Necrotizing Myositis/Fasciitis are easily missed and are often confused for a minor, superficial infection.

Overtime, as the infection rapidly spreads, pain and illness will worsen and become very severe. By about 4-5 days, the individual is very ill with a severe drop in blood pressure and high temperature.

Necrotizing Myositis/Fasciitis signs and symptoms:

- Pain or soreness, similar to that of a pulled muscle
- Flu-like symptoms, such as nausea, fever, diarrhea, dizziness and general illness
- [A fine, crackling sensation under the skin \(crepitus\)](#)
- Swelling and tenderness
- Redness and warmth
- Intense thirst
- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Rash
- Blisters filled with dark, foul-smelling fluid
- Skin discoloration, peeling and flakiness.

## Critical symptoms

- **Altered levels of consciousness**
- **Unconsciousness**
- **Dangerously low blood pressure**
- **High temperature**
- **Toxic shock**

# What causes Necrotizing Myositis/Fasciitis?

Necrotizing myositis is caused by several kinds of bacteria entering the body, usually by injury to the skin.

(Small cut, scrape, graze, pinprick, injection, insect bites, surgical wound)

# How is Necrotizing Myositis/Fasciitis diagnosed?

- Surgery to remove damaged or dead tissue and fluids in order to stop the spread of infection.
- Medicines (such as antibiotics)
- Procedures to treat complications such as shock, breathing problems, and organ failure
- Cardiac monitoring and breathing aids
- Amputating limbs or removing organs may be done to save a patient's life, depending on how severe the infection is and where in the body it has spread
- Blood transfusions
- High-resolution computed tomography (HRCT).

# What research is being done?

Research is ongoing to learn more about Necrotizing Myositis and test potential treatments. The details for a number of studies related to 'necrotizing soft tissue infections' can be found on the [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) website.