

Listeria monocytogenes

Listeria monocytogenes is the species of pathogenic bacteria that causes the infection listeriosis. It is a facultative anaerobic bacterium, capable of surviving in the presence or absence of oxygen. It can grow and reproduce inside the host's cells and is one of the most virulent foodborne pathogens, with 20 to 30% of clinical infections resulting in death.

Responsible for an estimated 1,600 illnesses and 260 deaths in the United States (U.S.) annually, listeriosis is the third-leading cause of death among foodborne bacterial pathogens, with fatality rates exceeding even *Salmonella* and *Clostridium botulinum*. In the European Union listeriosis follows an upward trend that began in 2008, causing 2,161 confirmed cases and 210 reported deaths in 2014, 16% more than in 2013. Listeriosis mortality rates are also in the EU higher than for other food-borne pathogens.

Complications

see [Listeria monocytogenes meningitis](#)

Brain abscess

Listeria monocytogenes (*L. monocytogenes*) is a rare causative pathogen of [brain abscess](#) that is often found in [immunodeficiency](#). Although patients with supratentorial listerial abscesses showed a longer survival with surgical drainage, the standard therapy for patients with subtentorial lesions has not been established.

A patient with supra- and subtentorial brain abscesses caused by *L. monocytogenes* infection. These abscesses did not respond to antibiotics, and his symptoms gradually worsened. Drainage was not indicated for subtentorial lesions, and the patient was additionally treated with hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which dramatically reduced the volume of abscesses and improved the symptoms.

This is the first report of drastic therapy for a patient with listerial brain abscesses involving combined antibiotics and hyperbaric oxygen therapy. The findings suggest that hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a good option for treating patients with deep-seated listerial abscesses and for who surgical drainage is not indicated ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Nakahara K, Yamashita S, Ideo K, Shindo S, Suga T, Ueda A, Honda S, Hirahara T, Watanabe M, Yamashita T, Maeda Y, Yonemochi Y, Takita T, Ando Y. Drastic therapy for listerial brain abscess involving combined hyperbaric oxygen therapy and antimicrobial agents. *J Clin Neurol*. 2014 Oct;10(4):358-62. doi: 10.3988/jcn.2014.10.4.358. Epub 2014 Oct 6. PubMed PMID: 25324887.

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