

Some Streptococci and in particular Streptococcus Pyogenes, may cause severe and life threatening infections. These include Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome, blood poisoning, and severe skin and soft tissue infections including necrotising fasciitis (NF) a condition with a potentially high mortality.

Contact

We hope this leaflet has answered some of your questions and has helped at what can be a traumatic time.



Raising awareness through education will save lives



The Lee Spark Foundation raises awareness of NF among healthcare professionals and patients through promotion of education and research. The foundation aims to collaborate with, and participate in, on-going research projects to learn more about NF and apply this knowledge to save lives.



If you require any further support or details of our work please do contact us:

✉ info@nfsuk.org.uk

📄 nfsuk.org.uk

And help get the word out by following us on social media!

📘 @necrotising

🐦 @theleesparkfdn

📷 @the_lee_spark_nf_foundation



Necrotising Fasciitis Support and Education

Severe Streptococcal Infections + Necrotising Fasciitis Support

The support group was founded in January 2000 as a result of Doreen Cartledge losing her dear son aged 23. His name was 'Lee Spark' (pictured above with Martyn).

He died from a Streptococcus Milleri infection that developed into a life threatening disease: necrotising fasciitis (known as the flesh eating bug and gangrene).

We offer support to survivors, bereaved, family and friends who have experienced this horrific disease.



Some of the questions you might be asking:

What is Necrotising Fasciitis (NF)?

The term necrotising fasciitis (NF) comes from the words 'necrosis', which means death of a portion of tissue (flesh) and 'fascia', the name given to the sheets or bands of fibrous tissue that enclose and connect the muscles. NF results from severe infection involving the soft tissues below the skin, particularly the fascia.

While NF may be caused by a number of bacteria, one of the leading bacterial causes is streptococcus pyogenes, also known as Group A Streptococcus. Although rare, Streptococcus and other types of NF can occasionally result from healthcare. The mortality rate from NF can be as high as 70% if not recognised and treated promptly.

What are the symptoms of NF?

NF may begin in an established wound (following either an injury or surgery) or broken skin such as a leg ulcer, or even following a knock or bruise. Like many infections there may be fever and 'flu-like' symptoms.

Excessive pain is an early warning symptom. Bacteria spread very rapidly in the tissue below the skin surfaces, well ahead of any visible changes in the overlying skin. Infection may progress at inches per hour; the patient rapidly becomes unwell with worsening 'flu-like' symptoms, possible vomiting and diarrhoea with progressive deterioration that is out of proportion to visible changes in the skin of the infected area. If not treated quickly, the skin over the affected area becomes dusky and purple; blisters may form and the skin dies.

By this stage, infection may have penetrated deep into underlying tissues. Patients may develop shock, with

collapse, low blood pressure, and failure of the liver, kidneys and other vital systems.

Pre-disposing factors

- Diabetes
- Surgery
- Mild trauma
- Low immunity
- Injecting drug use
- Non steroid anti-inflammatory drugs
- Steroids
- Bites
- Minor procedures

Treatment of NF

Treatment may involve one of several of the following:

- Surgical debridement
- Antibiotic therapy
- Induced sedation
- Intensive care
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- Vacuum assisted closure
- Skin grafts