

Deadly fungal meningitis outbreak in U.S.

Sixteen people in the United States have died from fungal meningitis caused by contaminated steroids used to relieve back pain. As many as 14,000 people received injections at 75 medical facilities in 23 states

Meningitis: Inflammation of protective membranes covering brain and spinal cord, known collectively as **meninges**

Brain tissue



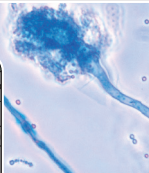
Meningeal layer } Dura matter
Periosteal layer }

Skull

Pia matter

White matter
Cerebral cortex

Symptoms: Severe headache, nausea, dizziness and fever. Symptoms have appeared between seven and 42 days after injection. Untreated disease can cause neurological damage as well as death



Aspergillus and *Exserohilum*, moulds linked to outbreak of fungal meningitis