



What is Hansen's Disease?

Hansen's Disease, *also known as leprosy*, is a curable disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*.

It is believed to be carried by certain animals – including armadillos – and is thought to be transmitted by droplets from the nose and mouth.

You cannot get Hansen's Disease from casual exposure. It is only caused by prolonged, close contact with someone who has untreated Hansen's Disease.

Is treatment available?

The Outpatient Clinic at the Texas Center for Infectious Disease (TCID) is a designated facility for the treatment of Hansen's Disease.

Hansen's Disease is a curable disease.

Currently, the recommended treatment regimen consists of three drugs:

1. Dapsone
2. Rifampin
3. Clofazimine

DID YOU KNOW?

There are about 200 new cases in the U.S. every year. Early diagnosis and treatment prevent nerve involvement, the hallmark of Hansen's disease and the disability it can cause.

Can anyone get Hansen's Disease?

Ninety-five percent of people have natural protection against the bacteria that causes Hansen's Disease.

For unknown reasons, there are few people who have little-to-no protection.

What effects does it have on the body?

Bacteria likes the cooler parts of the body and often affects the skin and nerves.

This can cause dryness and stiffness of the skin, pain, loss of feeling, and weakness in the muscles of the hands and feet.



Common Symptoms

- Non-responsive patches on skin, or lesions that are raised or flat, light, or pigmented
- Thickened, tender peripheral nerves
- Loss of eyebrows or blink reflex
- Nodules (growths) on skin, especially nose or earlobes
- Clawing of the hands or foot drop
- Stuffy nose, nosebleeds, or deformity of the nose



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

For more information visit dshs.texas.gov/tcid/ or call 210-531-4553.