



CREUTZFELDT-JACOB DISEASE (CJD)

What is CJD?

Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD) is an extremely rare disease of the brain believed to be caused by an infectious protein, which results in progressive forgetfulness, dementia and eventual death.

What are the symptoms of CJD?

Early symptoms of CJD include anxiety, depression, withdrawal and other behavioural changes, progressing to forgetfulness and other memory impairment with dementia in the late stages.

How is CJD spread?

The only known cases where CJD has spread from one person to another are a few rare cases of disease transmission caused by injection of human growth hormone or transplantation of human tissue. These medically-related means of transmission have now been reduced.

Who can get CJD?

Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease occurs in both men and women all over the world in about one person per million population.

Can CJD be treated?

There is currently no treatment or cure for CJD.

How can CJD be prevented?

Most cases of CJD seem to occur with no means of explanation, therefore cannot be prevented. People who have been in close contact with someone who has CJD are not at risk of the disease.

For additional information, contact your regional Public Health office or your family doctor.

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