

Meningoencephalitis

Inflammation of the brain and surrounding tissues, usually caused by infection.

Rare

Fewer than 200,000 US cases per year



Treatable by a medical professional



Requires a medical diagnosis



Lab tests or imaging always required



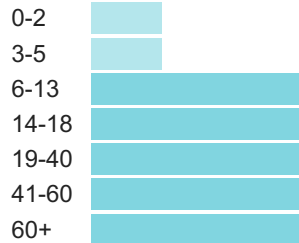
Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

Meningoencephalitis is a condition that's usually caused by a virus, bacterium, parasite, or other microorganism. Examples include West Nile virus, mumps, or tuberculosis.

Symptoms vary, depending on the cause. They may include fever, confusion, vomiting, seizures, or, if left untreated, death.

Treatment may include antibiotics, antivirals, or supportive care, depending on the origin of the disease.

Ages affected



Symptoms

Requires a medical diagnosis

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People may experience:

Common symptoms: fever, headache, light sensitivity, headache, stiff neck, mental confusion, problems with coordination, or vomiting

Treatments

Treatment consists of antibiotics

Treatment may include antibiotics, antivirals, or supportive care, depending on the origin of the disease.

Medications

Antibiotics: Stops the growth of or kills bacteria.

- Ceftriaxone

Antiviral drug: Reduces viruses' ability to replicate.

- Acyclovir sodium

Supportive care

Monitoring in the intensive care unit: Care provided in a specialized hospital unit that can deliver medications to support blood pressure and manage breathing machines.

Supportive intensive care: Care provided in a specialized hospital unit that can deliver medications to support blood pressure and manage breathing machines.

IV fluids: Delivering fluids, medication, or blood directly into a vein.

Specialists

Infectious disease doctor: Treats infections, including those that are tropical in nature.

Neurologist: Treats nervous system disorders.

Pediatrician: Provides medical care for infants, children, and teenagers.

Primary care provider (PCP): Prevents, diagnoses, and treats diseases.

Emergency medicine doctor: Treats patients in the emergency department.

Critical: consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

Sources: Mayo Clinic and others. [Learn more](#)