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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
4839	26.08.2018	27.08.2018	Nagpur Maharashtra	<a href="http://www.timesofindia.com/English">www.timesofindia.com/English</a> <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/5-days-of-scrub-typhus-at-gmch-in-20-days/articleshow/65544113.cms?utm_campaign=andapp&amp;utm_medium=referral&amp;utm_source=email">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/5-days-of-scrub-typhus-at-gmch-in-20-days/articleshow/65544113.cms?utm_campaign=andapp&amp;utm_medium=referral&amp;utm_source=email</a>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>5 die of scrub typhus within 20 days at Nagpur district, Maharashtra</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Nagpur, SSU-Maharashtra			

Scrub typhus, a zoonotic disease which is transmitted from animals to human through mites, has in the last 20 days killed five patients undergoing treatment at Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH). Though scrub typhus cases are mainly reported from rural areas where infected mites are found on animals and in water-filled fields, two of the five deceased are from Nagpur city. Two more patients are said to be in critical condition. Scrub typhus patients have also been admitted to the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Hospital (IGGMCH), but here no deaths have been reported this season — scrub typhus is normally a rainy season disease.

Both GMCH and IGGMCH do not have facility to conduct diagnostic test for the disease. Though it is non-contagious (not transmitted from one person to other), scrub typhus is a notifiable disease and all doctors, be it government or private, are expected to report cases to the public health department. Dr YB Bansod, professor and head of the medicine department at GMCH, told TOI that out of the 13 patients admitted in August so far, five died due to complications arising with the disease. "In most cases, patients come to us late when already many organs are affected. Then

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,  
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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managing the complications is not easy. The disease is, however, treatable with antibiotics in the early stage. We have drugs for managing organ problems as well but we don't have injectable doxycycline. It is available in tablet form. GMCH is sending blood samples for testing to private laboratories," Dr Bansod said. IGGMCH is sending samples to veterinary college. Apart from the two deaths in the city, the other three have been recorded in Narkhed, Paradsinga and Balaghat. Patients have also been admitted from Amravati, Seoni, Betul and other places, showing that the disease has wide presence probably due to its seasonal nature.

Dr Ashutosh Somalwar, associate professor at GMCH, said that in this disease there can be kidney failure, lung involvement or respiratory distress, vomiting, high grade fever, chills and seizures, jaundice and finally multi-organ failure. "Patients can easily survive with early reporting and investigations," he said. Dr PP Joshi, professor and head of medicine at IGGMCH who first reported a case of scrub typhus in the region in 2012, said that there are no specific signs to differentiate this disease from many other diseases with similar symptoms, except for an eschar (cigarette butt like scar). This too is generally present in the private parts or other hidden parts in only about 30-40% patients only. "Doxycycline is the only drug which treats the disease completely in early stages. Doctors should be alert enough to prescribe the drug to prevent deaths," he said

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