

# Streptococcus Iniae

## Occupational Bacterial Infection from Handling Fish

### What is *Streptococcus iniae*?

*Streptococcus iniae* is a zoonotic pathogen that infects fish and people. It is found worldwide and can spread from fish as well as spread person to person.

### How does infection occur?

Direct contact with an open wound or broken skin when handling a live or freshly killed fish can result in an infection.

### What are the symptoms?

Symptoms include swelling and redness at the site of infection. Blood may become poisoned by bacteria (septicemia). Arthritis, fever, abdominal bloating, and pneumonia are also known symptoms. Most people affected are over 50 years old or immunocompromised.

### How do I prevent it?

Avoid any contact with fish when you have an open wound. Wear appropriate PPE (such as gloves) when handling fish.

### How is it treated?

*Streptococcus iniae* is treated with antibiotics.

### Resources used:

- Bacterial infections from aquatic species: potential for and prevention of contact zoonoses (2013) *Rev Sci Tech*. Aug; 32(2):497-507.
- The Center for Food Security and Public Health Zoonotic Disease Factsheets: Streptococcosis
- The Center for Food Security and Public Health Zoonotic Transmission Routes: Streptococcosis
- List of Zoonoses - Special Pet Topics - Merck Veterinary Manual