



Orange County

ATTENTION

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County Executive

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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Commissioner of Health

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PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE, PRIMARY CARE, EMERGENCY ROOM, INTERNAL MEDICINE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE, OB/GYN AND AMBULATORY CARE STAFF.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT # 5

Outbreak on East Coast of Rapidly-growing Mycobacterium Infections following Cosmetic Surgery Performed in the Dominican Republic.

The Orange County Department of Health has been notified of a cluster of nontuberculosis Mycobacterium (NTM) infections following cosmetic surgery procedures performed in the Dominican Republic. Cases have been reported in Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York City.

All patients are women having undergone elective cosmetic surgery procedures, including liposuction, abdominoplasty and breast lifts or reductions in the Dominican Republic in July or August 2013. Symptoms have included abdominal abscesses, pain, wound discharge and fever. No deaths have occurred.

The CDC has reported outbreaks of NTM infections associated with cosmetic surgery in the Dominican Republic in the past.

When seeing patients please be alert for the following:

- Cellulitis, soft tissue infection or cutaneous abscess in which NTM (including *M. abscesses*, *M. chelonae* and *M. fortuitum*) has been identified or infections/abscesses which have not responded to standard antibiotic treatment regardless of the culture results since July 1, 2013. In such patients, we recommend that specimens have mycobacterial culture performed.
- If patients meet the above criteria –please ask if they have had a recent cosmetic surgery in the Dominican Republic.
- Please report all cases meeting the above criteria to the Health Department 291-2330.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2004, June18). Brief report: nontuberculosis mycobacterial infections after cosmetic surgery-Santo Domingo Dominican Republic, 2003-2004. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5323a4.htm>
2. Furuya EY, et al. Outbreak of Mycobacterium abscessus wound infections among “lipotourists” from the United States who underwent abdominoplasty in the Dominican Republic. Clin Infect Dis 46:1181-8 (2008)
3. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) 2013 Alert # 38.