



CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE (CJD) FACT SHEET

WHAT IS CJD?

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is a neurodegenerative disorder with characteristic clinical and diagnostic features. This disease is rapidly progressive and always fatal

HOW DO YOU GET CJD?

It is unknown how most people get this disease. The most common form of classic CJD is believed to be caused by the spontaneous transformation of normal proteins into abnormal proteins. Some people may also develop CJD because of an inherited genetic mutation. CJD is not spread from person-to-person by normal contact or through environmental contamination.

SYMPTOMS

- Confusion
- Poor concentration
- Fatigue
- Progressive dementia
- Intermittent unsteadiness when standing or walking
- Variable loss of control of bodily movements
- Changes in sleep
- Decreased appetite
- Loss of ability to understand or express speech
- Visual loss
- Paralysis
- Muscle loss

TREATMENT

No specific therapy has been shown to stop the progression of this disease. Supportive therapy is used to manage symptoms. Discuss treatment options with your doctor

PREVENTION

- Avoid contact with Mastomys rodents and do not use as a food source.
- Put food away in rodent-proof containers and discourage rodents from entering the home.
- Trap rats in and around homes to reduce rat population.
- Wear protective clothing such as masks, gloves, gowns and goggles around infected individuals.

DPHD EFFORTS:

Reports of suspected and confirmed cases of disease are made to the Delaware Public Health District. The Health District investigates potential sources of illness, conducts surveillance for the spread of disease, and engages in community outreach and education.