

Clostridium Infection

Harborview Medical Center is reporting an increase in *Clostridium* infections in people who use heroin.

Injecting heroin that contains *Clostridium* can cause serious infection and even death.

Muscling and skin-popping pose the greatest risks, but shooting IV is risky, too.

There is no way to know which heroin has the bacteria and which does not.

Cooking the dope does not kill the bacteria.

What do symptoms look & feel like?

- Skin around the injection site will get red and swell or become numb.
- Skin will feel warm, tender and might be painful.
- The infection may ooze a brown to blood-colored watery discharge.
- At the beginning, it may look like a regular abscess, but it gets worse very quickly (within a few hours).

If *Clostridium* infection is caught *early*, it can be treated. It is very important to catch it early and **begin treatment immediately.**

If you have any of the symptoms described above:
Go to the nearest EMERGENCY ROOM immediately!!!
Take this flyer with you so you will be seen quickly.

Do not try to treat this infection yourself!