

Leptospirosis

also known as **Weil's syndrome** is caused by infection with bacteria of the genus *Leptospira* and affects humans as well as other animals. Leptospirosis is among the world's most common diseases that transmits from animals to people (zoonosis).

Causes Leptospirosis is caused by a bacterium called *Leptospira* spp.

Transmission Leptospirosis is among the world's most common diseases that transmits from animals to people (zoonosis). The infection is commonly transmitted to humans by allowing water or soil that has been contaminated by animal urine to come in contact with unhealed breaks in the skin, the eyes, or with the mucous membranes.

Signs and Symptom Leptospiral infection in humans causes a range of symptoms,. Leptospirosis is a biphasic disease that begins with flu-like symptoms. The first phase (mild leptospirosis) resolves. the second phase (severe leptospirosis) . 90 percent of the disease is mild leptospirosis and without any specific treatment and the rest develop to severe leptospirosis. This is characterized by heart affected, liver damage (causing jaundice), renal failure with same signs and symptoms; brain affected, meningitis of the outer layer of the brain, respiratory distress

Diagnosis testing a serum or blood sample serologically.

Kidney function tests.

confirmed with tests such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Treatment Doxycycline may be used.

Supportive therapy measures.

Treatment for hyperphosphatemia.

Prevention

- There is no available human vaccine effective against leptospirosis.
- Immunisation of animals with *Leptospira* vaccines: an animal vaccine is available, and immunising and treating infected animals is worthwhile.
- Reduce rodent populations, eg by clearing rubbish and preventing rodent access into buildings.

- The risk of infection can be greatly reduced by not swimming or wading in water that might be contaminated with animal urine.
- then advise the person to:
 - Wash or shower promptly after water sports.
 - Wear thick gloves when handling rats.
 - Wash hands after handling any animal, and before eating.