

Five deaths in meningitis outbreak linked to Mass. firm

Mass High Tech: The Journal of New England Technology

The death toll from an outbreak of a rare fungal meningitis, which has been traced back to a Framingham pharmacy, [has reached five](#) [1], and warnings have [spread to 23 states](#) [2].

New England Compounding Center [is linked to the outbreak](#) [3], which investigators believe to have been caused by a steroid injection supplied by the firm. The pharmacy has since [suspended operations](#) [3].

A sealed vial of the steroid, obtained by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, reportedly contained levels of fungus that were visible to the naked eye, according to [a report on ABC News](#) [4]. Manufacturing of such compounding companies is typically monitored by the State Board of Pharmacy, and the FDA would only get involved if a drug were being adulterated or misbranded.

Source URL (retrieved on 01/27/2015 - 7:24am):

<http://www.mdtmag.com/news/2012/10/five-deaths-meningitis-outbreak-linked-mass-firm>

Links:

[1] <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/features/x21085474/Meningitis-outbreak-linked-to-Framingham-company-worsens>

[2] <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/oct/04/meningitis-outbreak-warning-expanded>

[3] http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/blog/mass_roundup/2012/10/meningitis-outbreak.html

[4] <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Wellness/meningitis-outbreak-highlights-hazards-compounding-pharmacies/story?id=17405294>