

THINK FUNGUS AND STAY CLEAR OF DOUBLE TROUBLE!

Serious fungal diseases can occur together with other illnesses and can be mistaken for, or masked by these illnesses

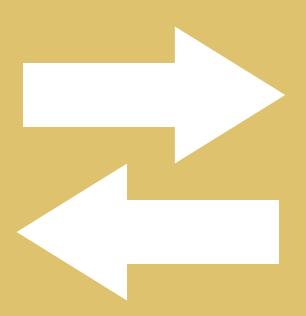
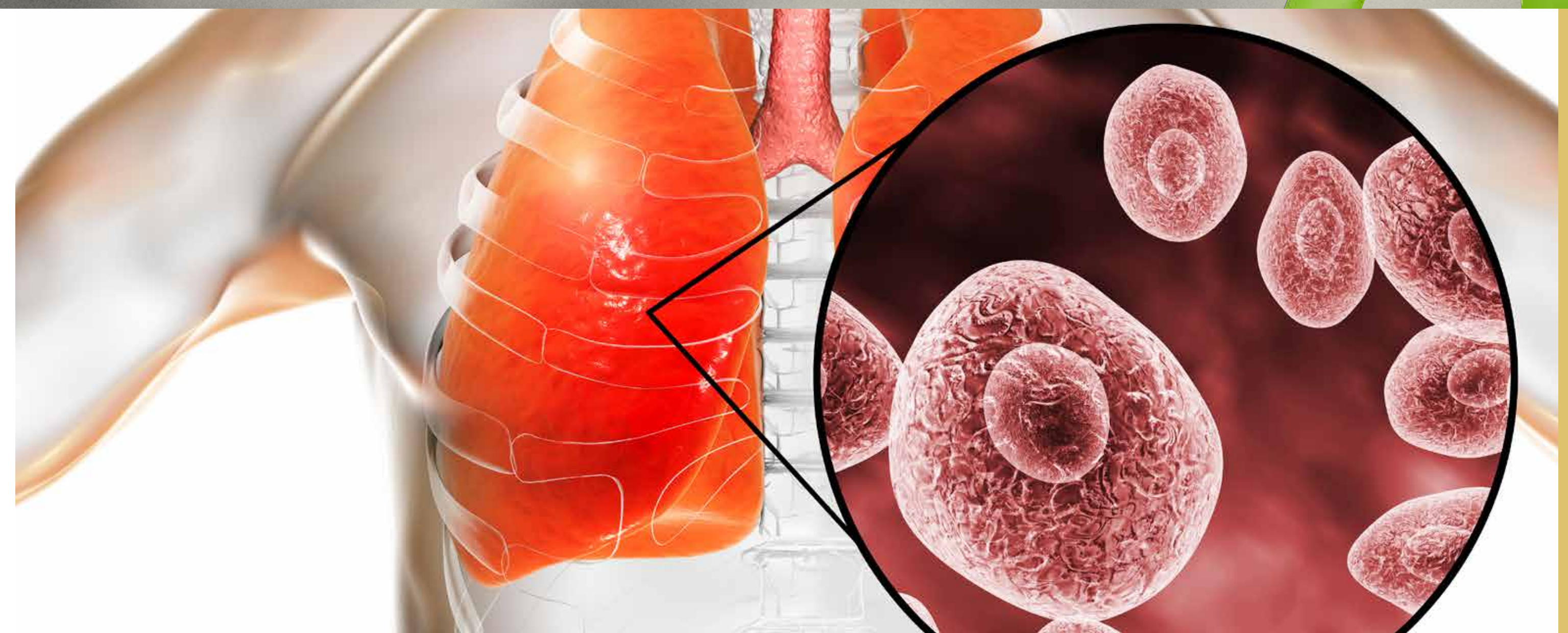


PNEUMOCYSTIS



WHAT IS PNEUMOCYSTIS?

- ▶ A fungus that causes infection leading to inflammation and fluid build-up in the lungs.
- ▶ It causes a life threatening opportunistic infection called PCP in individuals with compromised immune systems.
- ▶ Many people are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, but for those who do have symptoms, these include fever, dry coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain/tightness, chills and weight loss.



HOW DO I GET PCP?

- ▶ The fungal pathogen, *Pneumocystis jirovecii*, spreads from person to person through cough droplets.
- ▶ Most people have had exposure to this fungus by the age of 3 or 4 years.



WHO IS AT RISK FOR PCP?

- ▶ Individuals with weakened immune systems from HIV, an organ transplant, blood cancer, or who take certain drugs for autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and multiple sclerosis.



HOW IS THIS INFECTION DIAGNOSED AND TREATED?

- ▶ PCP is diagnosed through microscopy, PCR, chest X-rays, and blood tests for low oxygen levels or a blood beta-D-glucan test.
- ▶ It is usually treated with antibiotics called trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole and sometimes with steroids.



HOW CAN THIS INFECTION BE PREVENTED?

- ▶ Since *Pneumocystis* is most common in those living with HIV, taking ARVs is the best way to combat this. People living with advanced HIV should also take the antibiotics called trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole to prevent PCP.



#FUNGALDISEASEAWARENESSWEEK EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF FUNGAL DISEASE LEADS TO LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT. #THINKFUNGUS



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