

Amoeba blamed in 2 more organ transplant deaths

16 September 2010

(AP) -- U.S. health officials say two Arizona organ transplant recipients died of an infection from a microscopic parasite they got from their organ donor.

The deaths are the second confirmed cluster of transplant-related encephalitis caused by *Balamuthia mandrillaris*, an [amoeba](#) found in soil. It is especially dangerous to people undergoing organ transplants and who have weakened immune systems. The first cluster occurred in Mississippi last year.

The donor, a 27-year-old male landscaper, died in Arizona in July from what doctors believed was a stroke. A 56-year-old male liver recipient died Aug. 17. A 24-year-old male kidney and pancreas recipient died Aug. 30. Two other recipients, one who got a heart and another a kidney, are alive and without symptoms.

More information: CDC report:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>

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