

## REVIEW

# PRIMARY AMEBIC MENINGOENCEPHALITIS AND *NAEGLERIA FOWLERI*: AN UPDATE

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**Abstract.** Free living amebae, *Naegleria* spp, are found in natural and recreation water worldwide. Pathogenic *N. fowleri* causes primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), which leads to lethal infection of the central nervous system in humans and animals. PAM and bacterial meningitis have similar clinical manifestations, such as high grade fever with flu-like symptoms, nausea, vomiting and neurological changes, thereby leading to possible misdiagnosis. As PAM progresses rapidly, diagnosis is usually made after death. This review describes recent incidents of PAM in particularly those in Thailand due to water irrigation, pathogenesis and detection of *N. fowleri* in Thailand.

**Keywords:** *Naegleria fowleri*, distribution, PAM incidence, primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), Thailand

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