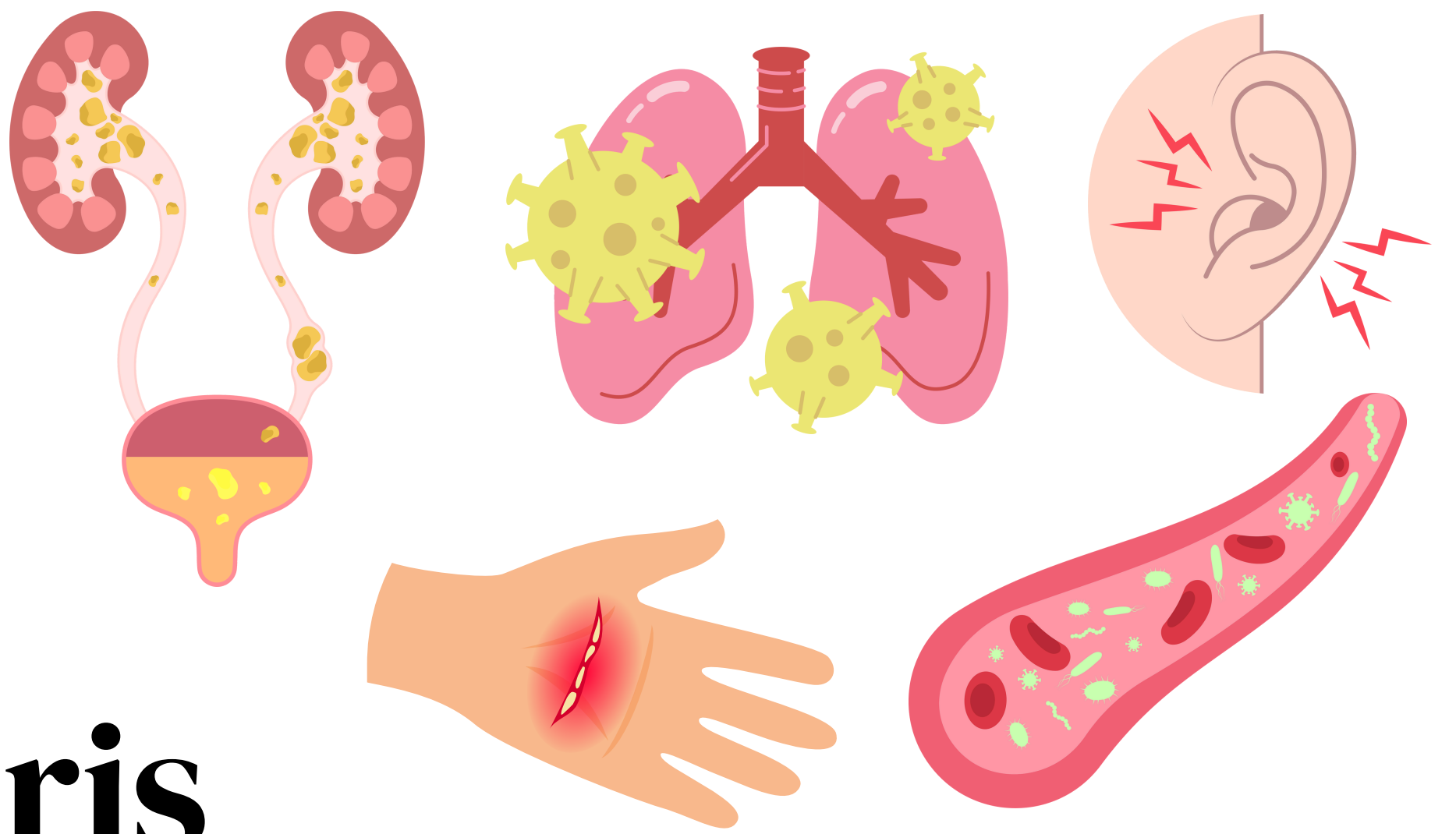
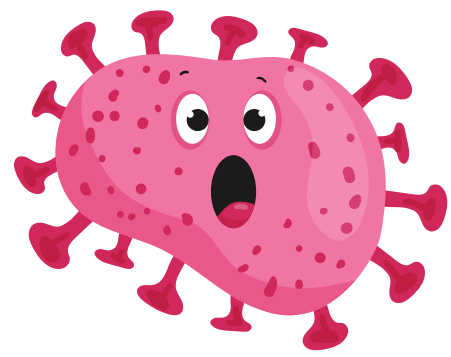


BUG OF THE MONTH: Candida Auris



WHAT IS IT?

- Candida auris (C. auris) is a type of yeast linked to transmission within healthcare settings
- C. auris is resistant to many common antifungal medications, which makes infections harder to manage
- C. auris can lead to a spectrum of infections, ranging from mild superficial skin infections to severe, life-threatening conditions like bloodstream infections

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- The symptoms of C. auris differ depending on the infection type (such as bloodstream, wound, urinary tract, respiratory or ear infections)
- Individuals may carry C. auris on their skin and other areas of their body without exhibiting any symptoms (known as colonization)
 - Those who are colonized can transfer C. auris onto surrounding surfaces, objects, and to other patients



DID YOU KNOW??



C. auris can:

- Develop resistance to all available antifungal treatments
- Survive on surfaces and multi-use equipment for up to several weeks
- Lead to widespread contamination in healthcare environments with infected patients
- Resist quaternary ammonium-based hospital disinfectants

Risk Factors:

- Severe underlying medical conditions
- Those requiring complex medical care and invasive medical devices (Ex: Urinary catheters, breathing tubes, feeding tubes, catheters in a vein, drains)

Generally not considered a risk for healthy individuals

TRANSMISSION

- Direct and indirect contact
 - Candida auris can spread person-to-person (Ex. through contaminated hands)
 - Through contact with contaminated resident environments and equipment
- Colonized residents can carry C. auris on their skin for several months

IPAC CONSIDERATIONS

- Develop facility policies and procedures for identifying, investigating, and managing residents colonized or infected with C. auris, in accordance with PHO guidelines
- Residents suspected or confirmed to have C. auris should be flagged according to facility protocols and placed on **contact precautions**
- If possible, consider placing resident in a private room with a private restroom or dedicated commode

If C. auris is suspected, contact your local public health unit for guidance and direction