

Amoeba blamed in 2 more organ transplant deaths

September 16 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>

©2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Amoeba blamed in 2 more organ transplant deaths (2010, September 16) retrieved 9 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2010-09-amoeba-blamed-transplant-deaths.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.