

# Autopsy confirms US patient had rare brain disease

September 21 2013

---

New Hampshire public health officials say an autopsy has confirmed a patient who may have exposed others to the rare brain disease Creutzfeldt-Jakob died of it.

After the patient died in August officials suspected Creutzfeldt-Jakob, an always-fatal disease characterized by rapidly progressive [dementia](#). But the only way to confirm it is through a brain biopsy or autopsy.

The patient had [brain surgery](#) at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester in May. Officials warned eight other patients they may have been exposed because the proteins that cause the disease survive standard techniques used to sterilize surgical equipment.

Five others in Massachusetts and Connecticut also were notified because the equipment was rented and used elsewhere. But officials say such transmission is extremely rare.

© 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Autopsy confirms US patient had rare brain disease (2013, September 21) retrieved 24 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-09-autopsy-patient-rare-brain-disease.html>

<p>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.</p>
--