



## Listeria meningitis

- **This form of meningitis occurs mainly in babies, elderly people and those with weakened immune systems**
- **It can be passed from mother to foetus during pregnancy or labour.**
- **When illness occurs very soon after birth, the most common problem is pneumonia and respiratory distress.**
- **Meningitis mainly occurs in babies who develop illness two or three days after birth.**
- **Late-onset infection may also occur through contact with other infected infants or adults who handle the baby.**

Very few cases now occur each year in the UK and Ireland, largely due to successful education campaigns about the dangers of eating unpasteurised milk products or contaminated pate, poultry or shellfish in pregnancy.

The disease can be very serious, with a death rate of about 30%.

[Where can I go for further information and support?](#)

**Freephone helpline** UK 080 88 00 33 44 Ireland 1800 41 33 444

**email** [helpline@meningitis.org](mailto:helpline@meningitis.org)

**Visit our website** [www.meningitis.org](http://www.meningitis.org)