



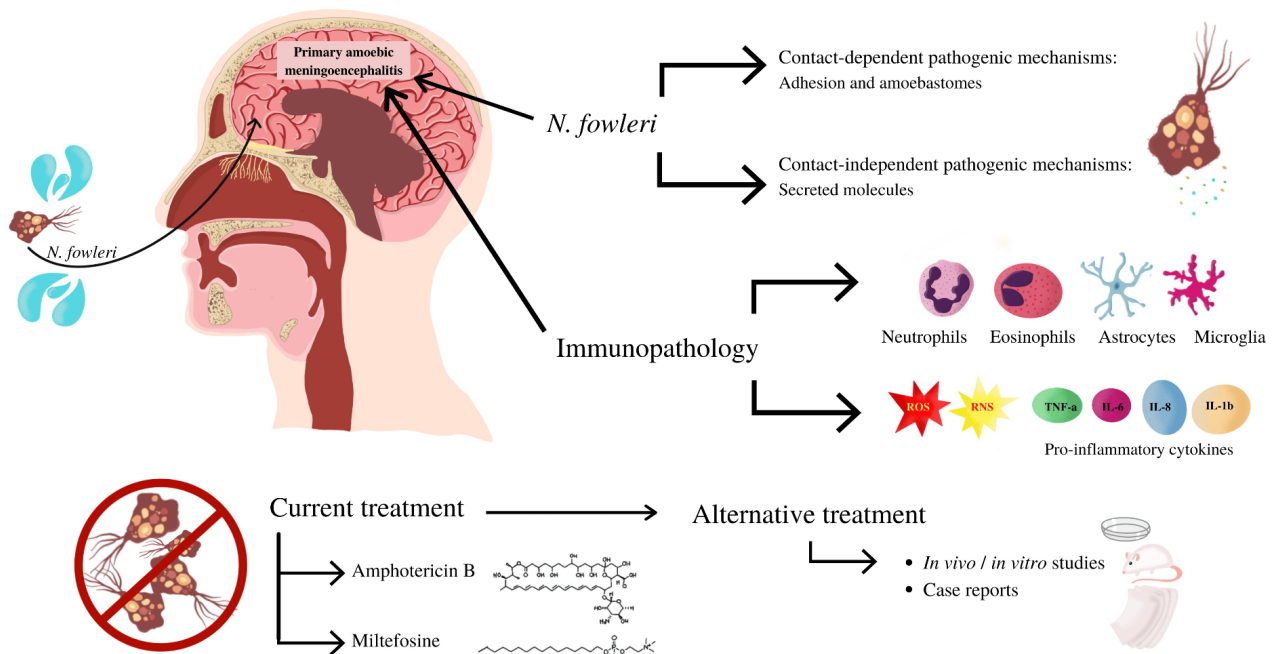
# Brain-eating Amoeba

Source: IE

The recent death of a 5-year-old girl in Kerala due to **primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM)** caused by the **Naegleria fowleri amoeba**, often referred to as the "brain-eating amoeba," has highlighted the **rare yet fatal nature** of this devastating infection.

- **Naegleria fowleri** is a free-living amoeba that thrives in **warm freshwater and soil** around the world.
  - The amoeba enters the body through the nose, typically during activities like swimming, and then travels to the brain, where it destroys brain tissue and causes swelling.
- **Symptoms:** The initial symptoms include **headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting**, followed by a stiff neck, confusion, seizures, hallucinations, and eventually coma.
- **Mortality Rate:** Most people with **PAM die within 1 to 18 days** after the onset of symptoms, and the disease usually leads to coma and death within 5 days.
- **Treatment Challenges:** There is currently **no effective treatment for PAM**, and doctors rely on a combination of drugs, including amphotericin B, azithromycin, fluconazole, and others, to try to manage the infection.

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Read More: [Naegleria fowleri: The Brain-Eating Amoeba](#)

