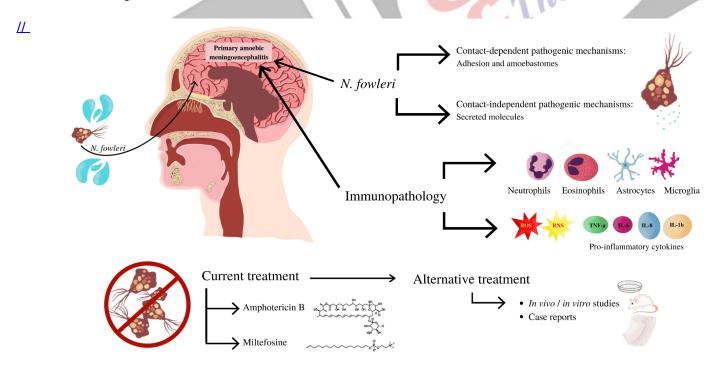


Brain-eating Amoeba

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.



Read More: Naegleria fowleri: The Brain-Eating Amoeba

