

Meet the Superbugs

Aspergillus fumigatus

Also called: *A. fumigatus* **Say it:** AS-per-gill-us fu-MI-ga-tus

About: Invasive aspergillosis is a severe and progressive disease occurring profoundly in people with weakened immune systems.¹
Mortality rates are very high; up to 88 %.²

Shape: Dandelion³ **Year identified:** 1863⁴

Potential threats include: Infection typically manifests in the lungs as invasive pulmonary aspergillosis, before spreading to other organs.⁵

One way to fight this superbug: Ensure immunocompromised patients are placed in protected environments to reduce mold exposure.

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3. Pitt JI. Aspergillus and related teleomorphs. *Fungi and Food Spoilage*, 3rd edition. New York: Springer, 2009;275-337.
4. Schmidt A, Schmidt DI. J.B. Georg W. Fresenius and the description of the species *Aspergillus fumigatus* in 1863. *Contrib Microbiol*. 1999;2:1-4.
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Breakthroughs that
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