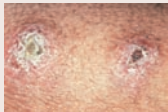


Leishmaniasis

Leishmaniasis is caused by a parasite (leishmania) that gets into people when infected sand flies bite them. You could be at an increased risk of getting this disease if you have been deployed to certain parts of Iraq. There are two kinds of disease: Cutaneous (skin) & Visceral (internal organs). The skin form is seen as a sore that will not heal, even after several weeks to months and antibiotic treatment. Visceral is seen as fevers that will not go away (often with high spikes twice a day) even after several weeks and antibiotic treatment. If you have either of these symptoms, you should seek medical attention and say that you have been deployed in an area with a high risk of leishmania exposure. There is no vaccine or preventive drug. The best way to protect yourself is to use permethrin-treated uniforms and bed nets, as well as insect repellent.



Skin sores from Leishmania. These can last for months untreated.



Sand fly feeding

The background of the slide is a faded, artistic illustration of soldiers in a desert environment. They are wearing helmets and carrying equipment, with one soldier in the foreground looking towards the viewer. The overall tone is muted and historical.

Leishmaniasis Contact Information

If you think you have Leishmaniasis (either as a sore that will not heal, or fevers that will not go away), you should seek medical attention, tell the doctor or provider that you have been deployed in an area with a high risk of leishmania exposure, and show this card. Below is contact information for diagnosis and treatment assistance.

For more information contact

DoD Helpline for Veterans and Family Members:

US Toll Free: 1-800-796-9699

Local No.: 202-782-3577 or (DSN 662)

From Europe Toll Free: 00800-8666-8666

Outside US DSN: 312-662-3577