

Rapidly fatal infections

Eric D. Katz, MD

EPs see patients with potentially fatal infections during every shift. Some are obvious: the septic patient, the patient with clear-cut meningitis, or the dialysis patient with new Janeway lesions. Unfortunately, there are many conditions which give the physician either no warning, or an ill-defined warning of rapid mortality. "Rapidly Fatal Infections" will discuss three of these, with a focus on the hints that the stable patient in front of you may be in jeopardy, and a few of the little-known management tricks that can be the difference between a hard talk with the family, and a true "save." In addition, the lecture will provide a brief review of the management of those with sepsis—which is a common pathway for many rapidly fatal infections. Lastly, the CDC has recently warned that emerging infections are coming faster and more lethally than previously, and so sources for information on emerging infections will be discussed, in order to let us be prepared for Avian Flu and its possible successors.

Eric D. Katz, MD is the program director of the emergency medicine residency at the Maricopa Medical Center.