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## Epidemiology, Evaluation, and Treatment of Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infection

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Necrotizing soft tissue infection (NSTI) is a severe, rapidly progressing, necrotic bacterial infection involving the soft tissues of the body. Aptly described as the “flesh-eating bacterial infection”, this disease has a long and storied history. It was described by Hippocrates around the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC as a disease in which “*many were attacked by the erysipelas all over the body when the exciting cause was a trivial accident flesh, sinews, and bones fell away in large quantities there were many deaths*”. It has been variously named “hospital gangrene”, Fournier’s gangrene, and necrotizing fasciitis.

Despite the recognition of the disease many millennia ago, NSTI remains a devastating disease with extremely high morbidity and mortality. Its incidence is increasing globally. In the treatment of necrotizing soft tissue infection, the most important predictor of outcome is time: time to diagnosis, surgical debridement, and the initiation of antibiotic therapy.

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*Guest Editors*





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