



Case no (3)

A 65-year-old alcoholic was taken to the emergency room with severe necrotic, blackened areas on both feet and several draining ulcers on his heels and toes. He was stuporous. During that evening he had a seizure and was treated with phenytoin and barbiturates. By the end of the night he had developed increasing rigor and respiratory distress and was unresponsive. His neck was stiff and hyperextended and his teeth clenched in a grimace. Specific therapy and supportive care led to his full recovery (15 marks)

1. What organism is causing this disease?
2. What virulence factors does it produce?
3. What specific therapy is used to treat this infection?
4. How might the infection have been prevented?