

# Common Fish Diseases and Seachem Treatments

Fish diseases are either systemic or infectious. Systemic diseases are either iatrogenic (induced by an external condition) or congenital. Nothing can be done about a congenital condition. An iatrogenic condition can usually be reversed by removing the cause. A congenital disease can usually be recognized as some kind of deformity or behavior that affects only one fish, while an iatrogenic disease is more likely to affect many or all fish.

Infectious diseases pose a unique problem of diagnosis. Most are external and parasitic in nature. Parasitic infestations, however, are often accompanied or followed by secondary bacterial or fungal infections. Even the experts have problems identifying specific disease conditions. Internal infections are even more difficult to diagnose and treat.

	Symptoms	Disease	Solution(s)
	Fish appears bloated to the point of bursting. Scales become raised and stick out. The anus is often inflamed. Commonly occurs with popeye (see below)	Dropsy	KanaPlex Focus
	Eyes protrude or appear to be "popping out" of their sockets.	Popeye	KanaPlex Focus NeoPlex
	Fins appear shredded, frayed, or decaying.	Fin & Tail Rot	ParaGuard NeoPlex Sulfathiazole KanaPlex PolyGuard
	Thin white or gray threads appear; these build up their mass until they appear like patches of cotton.	Fungus	ParaGuard NeoPlex Sulfathiazole KanaPlex PolyGuard
	Streaky or blotchy reddening appearing on the fins near the body or under the scales.	Bacterial Hemorrhagic Septicemia	NeoPlex Sulfathiazole KanaPlex
	Holes that widen the sensory pores in the heads of large fish	Hexamita/ Hole-in-the-head Disease	Metronidazole ParaGuard (dip)
	<b>Ick:</b> The fish appears sprinkled with with grit or coarse sand. Fish rub against hard objects to free themselves of the parasite. <b>Velvet:</b> Surface appears dull and in heavy infections, the fish takes on a yellowish or yellow-brown velvety texture.	Ick (Ichthyophthirius, cryptocaryon) and Velvet (Oodinium, etc.)	Cupramine Metronidazole AquaZole ParaGuard PolyGuard