

Sepsis

Sepsis is a potentially life-threatening condition caused by an infection. Sepsis occurs when the immune system overreacts to an infection and, while it can be triggered by any infection, is often associated with infections of the lungs, urinary tract, skin and GI system. It can lead to tissue damage, amputations, organ failure, and even death. Septic shock is

Risk Factors: children less than one year old, adults 65 or older, people with weakened immune systems (such as patients taking chemotherapy, steroids, or other immune-suppressing drugs; or those with medical conditions, such as HIV/AIDs, diabetes, lung disease, kidney disease, cancer, pneumonia, or meningitis)

Prevention –practice good-hygiene and stay current with recommended vaccines

Symptoms:

Shivering, fever above 101°, feeling very cold, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea

Extreme pain, general discomfort, elevated heart rate

Pale, mottled or discolored skin

Sleepy, lethargic, confused, difficult to arouse

I “I feel the worst I have ever felt.” (expressed statements such as this)

Shortness of breath, sore throat

Treatment: Early recognition of signs and symptoms. If you have or observe any of the above signs or symptoms or a combination of them seek medical attention, call 911 or go to the hospital immediately. Once admitted to the hospital with a diagnosis of sepsis treatment will more than likely and with individualized care consist of antibiotics, IV fluids, oxygen, and maintaining vital organ function.

Statistics:

- Approximately 40% of US adults have NEVER heard of Sepsis.
- Sepsis is one of the leading causes of death in US hospitals. Sepsis is also a leading cause for hospital re-admissions within 30 days of discharge from a hospital. Sepsis accounts for approximately 6% of all hospitalizations. Deaths in hospitals due to sepsis is 35%.
- There are on average 38 amputations in the US per day due to Sepsis. There is as much of an 8% increase of mortality in Sepsis that occurs for every hour that treatment is delayed.
- With quick recognition of the signs and symptoms of Sepsis and seeking medical attention as many as 80% of sepsis deaths could be prevented.
- Sepsis affects people worldwide including more than 3 million children each year. Anyone can develop sepsis.
- There are more than 1.7 million people in the US diagnosed with sepsis each year.
- People die from sepsis more than Prostate Cancer, Breast Cancer, and AIDs combined.