

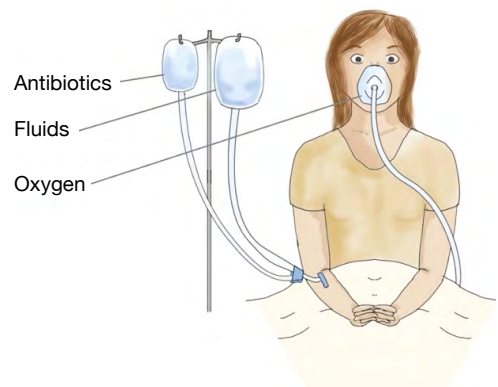
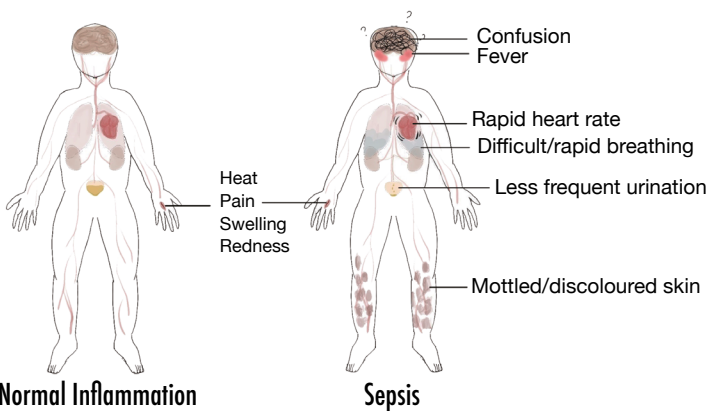


WHAT IS SEPSIS?

SEPSIS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
≈20%
 OF ALL DEATHS
 EVERY YEAR

Sepsis occurs when our body overreacts to an infection, and instead of helping fight the infection, it can end up damaging our vital organs, sometimes even fatally. Scientists and doctors don't yet know why the body does this, but they do know the signs to look out for, and it is crucial these symptoms are spotted quickly so treatment can be given before the organs are damaged beyond repair.

SO HOW DOES SEPSIS LOOK DIFFERENT TO THE BODY'S NORMAL RESPONSE TO AN INFECTION?



The main issue is that the immune system (our body's biological defence system) starts attacking the whole body (we call this '**systemic inflammation**'), instead of only targeting the site of the infection ('**localised inflammation**'). Think of when you get a papercut; the wound becomes swollen and sore, that's inflammation, and the normal localised immune response to protect against infection.

Sepsis can happen to anyone at any time and it is very important to seek medical help as soon as the symptoms are spotted.

Once in the hospital there are many tests which can monitor the patient's health as well as detect the invading pathogen (e.g. bacteria, virus, parasite) that started the infection. These tests can take a few days to complete, however many researchers are trying to make this detection faster and easier. They are also looking to understand why some people are more at risk of sepsis than others.

Since sepsis can cause multiple organ failure, rapid diagnosis and a targeted treatment are the key to survival. Time is everything...simply knowing the signs could save a life!