



Sepsis

Sepsis is also called systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS). Sepsis is a life-threatening illness. Your body's response to a bacterial infection usually causes it. Your immune system goes into overdrive, overwhelming normal processes in your blood. The result is that small blood clots form, blocking blood flow to vital organs. This can lead to organ failure. Babies, old people and those with weakened immune systems are most likely to get sepsis. But even healthy people can become deathly ill from it. A quick diagnosis can be crucial, because one third of people who get sepsis die from it. Sepsis is usually treated in a hospital intensive care unit (ICU). IV antibiotics and fluids may be given to try to knock out the infection and to keep blood pressure from dropping too low. Patients may also need respirators to help them breathe.

People with paralysis are especially susceptible to sepsis. It is important for them to receive immediate and proper treatment as it can quickly progress to a life-threatening situation.

Source: National Library of Medicine's Medline Plus
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/sepsis.html>

Websites

<http://www.sepsisalliance.org/>

Sepsis Alliance

610 West Azeele Street, Suite 203

Tampa, FL 33606

Phone: (813) 874-2552

Sepsis Alliance is a non-profit organization that provides information on sepsis.

<http://www.advancesinsepsis.com/>

Advances in Sepsis

<http://www.clevelandclinic.org/health/health-info/docs/3800/3887.asp?index=12361>

Cleveland Clinic: Sepsis

<http://www.sepsisforum.org/>
International Sepsis Forum

http://kidshealth.org/parent/pregnancy_center/newborn_health_conditions/sepsis.html
KidsHealth: Sepsis

<http://www.lpch.org/diseaseHealthInfo/healthLibrary/hrnewborn/sepsis.html>
Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford: Sepsis

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/234587-overview>
Medscape: Bacterial Sepsis

http://www.merckmanuals.com/professional/critical_care_medicine/sepsis_and_septic_shock/sepsis_and_septic_shock.html?qt=&sc=&alt=
Merck Manual for Health Care Professionals: Sepsis and Septic Shock

<http://www.survivingsepsis.org/>
Surviving Sepsis Campaign

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sepsis>
Wikipedia: Sepsis

The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please see www.paralysis.org and click *Borrow from Our Lending Library* under PRC Quick Links.

Books

- **ABC of Sepsis.** Daniels, Ron and Tim Nutbeam, editors. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- **Contemporary Diagnosis and Management of Sepsis.** Ely, E. Wesley and Gordon R. Bernard, editors. Newton, PA: Handbooks in Healthcare, 2006.
- **Sepsis: A Medical Dictionary, Bibliography, and Annotated Research Guide to Internet References.** Parker, James N. and Philip M. Parker, editors. Icon Group International, 2004.

Videos

- **Sepsis: The Peril of Infection.** Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities and Sciences, 2005. DVD and VHS

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