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Human Health and Disease

Health

Health is not simply 'absence of disease' or 'physical fitness'.

Factors affecting health:

Mental state, genetic disorders, infections and life style (habits, rest and exercise)

	Productivity, longevity
Condition _	Increase Bring economic prosperity
of health	Decrease → Infant and maternal mortality

Disease

It is state of the body when functioning of one or more organ systems is adversely affected, characterized by various signs and symptoms.

		Types of diseases	
Parameters		Non-infectious	Infectious
Transmission from o person to another	ne	No	Yes
Example		Cancer	AIDS

- * Pathogens: Disease causing organisms:
 - + Most parasites are pathogens living in (or on) the host, multiply and interfere with normal vital activities resulting in morphological and functional damage.
 - + Gut pathogens can survive harsh pH & digestive enzymes.
- * Vector: Transmits disease from one organism to another e.g., female *Aedes* mosquito is the vector for dengue and chikungunya while, *Anopheles* spreads malaria.

Table: Classification of diseases on the basis of transmission

Mode of transmission	Bacterial	Viral	Protozoan	Helminthic
Air (droplet/aerosol) or object borne (pens, knobs etc.)	Pneumonia, diphtheria	Common cold, Smallpox	_	-
Direct contact	Tetanus	Smallpox	_	_
Contaminated food and water	Typhoid, dysentery	Polio	Amoebiasis	Ascariasis
Insect vector/vector borne	Plague	Chikungunya, Dengue	Malaria	Filariasis
Body fluids	Syphilis	AIDS	Trichomoniasis	_

Bacterial Diseases

Disease	Pathogen	Organ affected	Common symptoms
Typhoid	Salmonella typhi Diagnostic test: Widal test	Small intestine and other organs by migrating through blood	Sustained high fever (39–40°C) Stomach pain Weakness Constipation Headache Loss of appetite In severe cases, intestinal perforation and death may occur.
Pneumonia	Streptococcus pneumoniae, Haemophilus influenzae	Alveoli of lungs	 Problem in respiration due to fluid filled alveoli Fever, chills, cough, headache In severe cases, lips and finger nails may turn gray to bluish

Viral Diseases

Disease	Pathogen	Organ affected	Symptoms
Common cold		 Nose and respiratory passage Common cold does not infect lungs 	 Nasal congestion and discharge Sore throat Hoarseness, cough Headache, tiredness symptoms usually lasts for 3-7 days

Helminthic Diseases

Disease	Pathogen	Organ/structure affected	Symptoms
Ascariasis	Ascaris (Roundworm)	Intestine	Internal bleeding, fever, muscular pain, anemia, blockage of intestinal passage
Elephantiasis/ Filariasis	Wuchereria bancrofti W. malayi (Filarial worm)	Lymphatic vessels	Chronic inflammation of organs in which they live for many years resulting in gross deformities e.g., limbs, genital organs etc.

Fungal Diseases

Disease	Pathogen	Body parts affected	Symptoms
Ringworm	Microsporum, Trichophyton, Epidermophyton	Skin, nails & scalp	Dry, scaly lesions
			Intense itching

Protozoan Diseases

Disease	Pathogen	Area affected	Symptoms
Amoebiasis/ Amoebic dysentery	Entamoeba histolytica	Large intestine	Constipation Abdominal pain
dysentery			Abdominal pain Common
			* Cramps
			❖ Stool with excess mucous and blood clots
Malaria	Plasmodium	RBCs	* Chills
	* P. vivax		 High fever recurring every 3-4 days
	 P. malariae 		 If left untreated, it can be fatal
	 P. falciparum 		
	* P. ovale		

Aids/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome

- * It is the deficiency of immune system, acquired during the lifetime of an individual.
- * It is non congenital and fatal infectious disease. It is caused by HIV (Human immuno deficiency virus).

Table: Enveloped virus enclosing 2 single stranded RNA genome

Life cycle	Mode of transmission	High Risk Individuals
	Sexual contact	Multiple sexual partners
Entry of virus in body	Placenta	HIV infected mother to foetus
	Blood transfusion	Repeated blood transfusion
\	Infected needles	Drug addicts (intravenous)
Entry into body cells (N	Jacronhages helner	, ,

- * There is progressive decrease in number of helper T-cells.
- * Initial symptoms: Fever, diarrhoea, weight loss.
- * Later the immune-deficient patient is prone to infections especially those due to *Mycobacterium*, viruses, fungi, *Toxoplasma*, etc.
- There is always a time-lag between infection and appearance of AIDS symptoms. This may vary from a few months to many years (usually 5-10 years).

Diagnostic Test: ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay)

Treatment: Anti-retroviral drugs, can only prolong life but cannot prevent death.



Cancer

A dreaded non-infectious disease; major cause of death all across the globe.

Parameters	Normal cells	Cancerous cells/ Neoplastic cells
Cell growth and differentiation	Highly controlled and regulated	Uncontrolled & non- regulated
Contact inhibition	Present, virtue of which contact with other cells inhibits their growth	Lost, so these cells keep on dividing and form mass of cells called Tumor/ Neoplasm

Types of Tumor

Parameters	Benign	Malignant tumor/cancer		
Location	Confined to original place	Grow rapidly and spread to other parts		
Damage	Little damage	Invade and damage other cells starving normal cells by competing for vital nutrients.		
Metastasis	No	Yes, cells sloughed from such tumors reach distant sites through blood and start new tumor called metastasis (most feared property).		

- Tumor cells have ability to avoid detection and destruction by immune system.
- * Approaches for treatment:
 - + Surgery
 - + Radiotherapy: Tumor cells irradiated lethally
 - + Chemotherapy: Side effects like hair loss, anemia
 - + Immunotherapy: α-interferons (Biological response modifiers) activate immune system and helps in destroying the tumor.

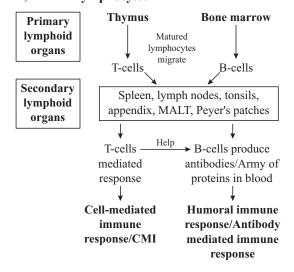
Immunity

The ability of the host to fight the disease causing organisms, conferred by the immune system is called **immunity**.

	Types		
Parameters	Innate	Acquired	
Observed	Time of birth	After birth	
Exposure to infection	Not required	Required	
Defense	Non specific	Specific	
Memory record	No	Yes	

Lymphoid Organs

The human immune system consists of lymphoid organs, tissues, cells and soluble molecules like antibodies. This response is carried out by two special types of lymphocytes present in our blood i.e., **B** and **T-lymphocytes**.



	IMMUNE RESPONSE				
Туре	Primary	Secondary/Anamnestic			
Exposure to pathogens	First time	Subsequent times			
Intensity	Low High Based on memory of first encounter				

Responses are carried out by B and T lymphocytes.

Each antibody has 4 peptide chains (H₂L₂): 2 long heavy chains and 2 short light chains. They are called immunoglobulins (lg). The different types of immunoglobulins are:

lgA, lgM, lgE, lgG, IgD

* T-lymphocytes are responsible for graft rejection.

Vaccination and Immunisation

	Types of immunity				
Antibodies	Active	Passive			
	Produced within the host body	Ready-made/preformed antibodies are directly given			
Time taken for full/ effective response	Longer	Shorter			
Memory cells	Yes	No			
Examples	Natural infection Vaccination Antibody production in host	$Mother \xrightarrow{Placenta} Foetus$			
	Deliberate injection of living/dead microbes/ proteins	$Mother \xrightarrow{Colostrum} Infant$			

^{*} Recombinant **DNA technology** has allowed the large scale production of antigenic polypeptides of pathogen in **bacteria/yeast**. Hence, greater availability for immunization, e.g., **hepatitis B vaccine produced from yeast**.

Allergies

Exaggerated response of immune system to certain antigens present in the environment.

Allergens	Substances to which exaggerated immune response is produced e.g., pollens, mites in dust, animal dander, etc.
Antibodies	lgE type
Symptoms	Sneezing, watery eyes, running nose, difficulty in breathing
Chemical released	Histamine and serotonin from mast cells
Diagnosis	Patient is exposed to or injected with very small doses of possible allergens and reactions studied.
Treatment	Anti-histamine, adrenaline and steroids quickly reduce the symptoms of allergy

Drug Abuse

- Chemical when taken for a purpose other than medicinal use or in amounts/frequency that impairs one's physical, physiological or psychological functions and constitutes drug abuse.
- * Source-Majorly from flowering plants and some from fungi.

Drug	Receptors	Source	Intake	Examples	Action and anything specific
Opioids	CNS, GIT	Latex of poppy plant, <i>Papaver</i> somniferum	Snorting, injection	MorphineHeroin/Smack(Diacetylmorphine)	 Effective sedative and pain killer Useful in patients undergone surgery Depressant and slows down body functions Odourless, white, bitter crystalline compound
Cannabinoids	Principally in brain	Inflorescence, flower tops, leaves and resin of cannabis plant	Inhalation, oral ingestion	CharasHashishGanjaMarijuana	 Effects on cardiovascular system of the body Also being abused by some sportspersons
Stimulants	CNS	Coca plant Erythroxylum coca (Native of South America)	Snorting	 Cocaine/coka alkaloid Commonly called (coke/crack) 	 Interferes with transport of neurotransmitter dopamine Potent stimulating action on CNS, producing sense of euphoria and increased energy Excessive dosage causes hallucinations



Hallucinogens	Atropa belladona, Datura	_	_	 Have been used for hundreds of years in folkmedicine, religious ceremonies and rituals all over the globe
Other drugs	Synthetic		Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Amphetamines	 Help patients cope with mental illnesses like depression and insomnia

* Chronic use of drugs and alcohol damages nervous system and liver (Cirrhosis)