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Course: Principles of Communicable disease and Epidemiology

Level:300level

Question

Explain susceptible host and control measures

Susceptible Host:A susceptible host is a person or organism that can be easily infected by a disease-causing agent (pathogen) because their body's natural defenses (immunity) are weak or not strong enough to resist infection.

In simple terms, it means the host (human or animal) is not immune and can catch the disease when exposed to the germ.

Factors That Make a Host Susceptible

1. Weak immune system – due to illness, stress, or certain medications.
2. Age – infants and elderly people are often more vulnerable.
3. Poor nutrition – lack of proper diet weakens body resistance.
4. Lack of vaccination – increases risk of infection.
5. Chronic diseases – such as diabetes or HIV.
6. Genetic factors – some people are naturally more prone to certain infections.
7. Environmental factors – overcrowding, poor sanitation, or exposure to infected people.

Control Measures for Susceptible Hosts:

To protect and strengthen the host, the following measures are used:

1. Immunization (Vaccination):Protects individuals from specific infectious diseases.
2. Good Nutrition:A balanced diet helps maintain a strong immune system.
3. Adequate Rest and Exercise:Keeps the body healthy and better able to resist infection.
4. Personal Hygiene:Regular handwashing, bathing, and oral hygiene reduce exposure to pathogens.
5. Health Education:Teaches people about disease prevention and healthy living practices.
6. Treatment of Chronic Illnesses:Managing conditions like diabetes or HIV reduces



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susceptibility.

7. Avoiding Contact with Infected Persons:Reduces the risk of exposure to pathogens.

8. Use of Protective Measures:Such as masks, gloves, and insect repellents when needed.



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