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EPIDEMIOLOGY

Susceptibility, is the state of being predisposed to, or sensitive to a certain disease. it is the tendency of an individual or animal to contract infections.

A Host refers to a human or animal who harbours disease, acts as a carrier of disease and may or may not present illness.

A susceptible host is defined as an individual or organism that is vulnerable to infection or disease caused by a particular pathogen

susceptible host.

Susceptibility of a host depends on the following factors that affect an individual's ability to resist infection or to limit pathogenicity. such as;

Genetic or constitutional factors; Individual's genetic makeup may either increase or decrease his or her susceptibility to some infectious diseases. For example, persons with sickle cell trait seem to be at least partially protected from a particular type of malaria.

Specific immunity, Specific immunity refers to protective antibodies that are directed against a specific agent. Such antibodies may develop in response to infection, vaccine, or toxoid (toxin that has been deactivated but retains its capacity to stimulate production of toxin antibodies) or may be acquired by transplacental transfer from mother to fetus or by injection of antitoxin or immune globulin.

Nonspecific factors ;Nonspecific factors that defend against infection include the skin, mucous membranes, gastric acidity, cilia in the respiratory tract, the cough reflex, and nonspecific immune response. Factors that may increase susceptibility to infection by disrupting host defenses include malnutrition, alcoholism, and disease or therapy that impairs the nonspecific immune response.

