

What Is Sepsis?

Sepsis is the body's **overactive** and **extreme response** to an infection. It's **unpredictable** and can progress rapidly.

Without prompt treatment, sepsis can lead to:

tissue
damage

organ
failure

death



More than **1.7 million** people get sepsis each year in the United States.



Nearly **270,000** Americans die from sepsis each year.

What Causes Sepsis?

Sepsis is triggered by an **infection**, though it may not be apparent to doctors or patients.

Many types of microbes can cause sepsis:

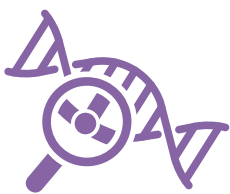


However, **bacteria**

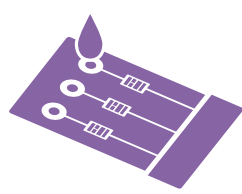


are the most common cause.

What's the Future of Sepsis Research?



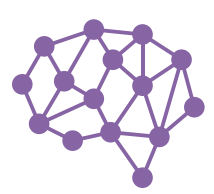
Identify biomarkers or other measurable health indicators of sepsis to optimize treatments.



Develop electronic tools and point-of-care devices for faster diagnosis.



Study how cellular and molecular processes lead to different types of sepsis—because it isn't a single condition.



Analyze large amounts of patient data to understand sepsis and the recovery process.

Read more about sepsis at https://www.nigms.nih.gov/education/pages/factsheet_sepsis.aspx.

Source:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, accessed September 2019.



National Institute of
General Medical Sciences