

# What you need to know about

# SEPSIS



Sepsis is a serious syndrome that occurs when a body's response to infection (from bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites) damages its own tissue and organs.<sup>1</sup>

Sepsis can lead to shock, multi-organ failure and even death, especially if it's not recognized early and treated quickly.

## WHAT CAUSES IT?

Any kind of infection can trigger sepsis, from a minor cut or scrape to pneumonia. Signs and symptoms in the early stages can be similar to many other mild illnesses, which makes sepsis difficult to diagnose early.

## WHO GETS IT?<sup>2,3</sup>

Sepsis can happen to anyone, of any age, race or gender, but there's higher risk for:

- People with weaker immune systems
- Young children, including babies
- Elderly people
- People with a chronic illness such as diabetes, cancer or AIDS
- Those who have a severe burn
- People who recently underwent surgery
- Those who recently had a transplant

## HOW IS IT TREATED?<sup>2</sup>

People with sepsis are treated in the hospital. Rapid, effective sepsis treatment, which includes giving antibiotics, maintaining blood flow to organs, and treating the source of infection, can save lives. Doctors treat sepsis with antibiotics as soon as possible. Many patients receive oxygen and intravenous (IV) fluids to maintain blood flow and oxygen to organs. Other types of treatment, such as assisting breathing with a machine or kidney dialysis, may be necessary. Sometimes surgery is required to remove tissue damaged by the infection.

## By the numbers:

# SEPSIS AROUND THE WORLD<sup>3</sup>

## 30MM

Around **30 million** people in the world develop sepsis each year, and **approximately 6 to 8 million die**.

## SEPSIS

causes more deaths than prostate cancer, breast cancer and HIV/AIDS combined.

## 200%

Hospitalizations for sepsis have **more than doubled** over the last 10 years across the globe, due to the aging population.

To learn more, please visit

[WWW.CDC.GOV/SEPSIS](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/SEPSIS) OR [WWW.WORLD-SEPSIS-DAY.ORG](http://WWW.WORLD-SEPSIS-DAY.ORG).

### REFERENCES:

1. <https://www.world-sepsis-day.org/sepsis/> 2. <http://www.cdc.gov/sepsis/basic/qa.html>
3. <https://www.world-sepsis-day.org/toolkits/>