



Hypogammaglobulinemia



Overview

This is a problem with the immune system. It's when your white blood cells don't make enough antibodies. What are antibodies? They're proteins that help your body fight germs. Without these antibodies, you get infections more easily than other people do.

Causes

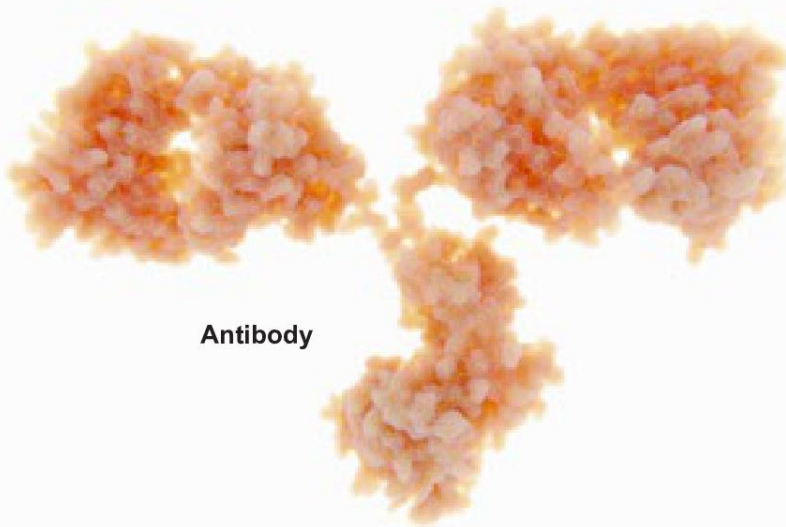
What causes this condition? It can result from a problem with your genes. It can be linked to premature birth. It develops because of other medical problems, too. Blood cancer and HIV can cause it. So can organ transplants and radiation therapy. And, it can be caused by certain medications. Ask your doctor for a full list of causes.

Symptoms

What are the symptoms? People with this condition get infections more easily than others do. They may tend to get a lot of infections of the ears, sinuses and skin. They may have frequent lung infections. And they have a higher risk for meningitis. That's an infection around the brain and spinal cord.

Treatment

How do we treat this condition? Well, it depends on the cause. Sometimes, no treatment is needed. A baby can be born with this condition and grow out of it. But other people do benefit from treatment. We can give you the right antibodies through IV injections. We also treat infections when you have them. We do this with antibiotics. Your doctor will create a plan that's right for you.



Antibody

