



Sepsis



Overview

This is a life-threatening condition. It's an immune response that's so intense it causes inflammation throughout your body. It can lead to organ failure.

Causes

What causes sepsis? It's usually linked to a bacterial infection. To fight the infection, your body releases a flood of chemicals into your blood. But these chemicals overwhelm your body. Tissues throughout your body become inflamed. Blood has trouble getting to your organs. This is sepsis.

Symptoms

If you have sepsis, you can have fever, chills and rapid breathing. Your heart rate may speed up. Your blood pressure may drop. You may have a rash, and you may become confused.

Treatment

Sepsis is a medical emergency. It's treated in a hospital with antibiotics and fluids. You may need supplemental oxygen. You may need dialysis. You may need surgery. Your doctor will create a care plan that's right for you.

