

Knowing the early signs of sepsis could save a life!

- Most Americans have never heard of the term "sepsis."
- The mortality (death) rate for sepsis is more than eight times higher than that for patients admitted to the hospital for other conditions.
- Sepsis is one of the most under recognized and misunderstood conditions.
- Early recognition improves survival rates and avoids complications due to sepsis.

For more information about sepsis please visit:

<http://atlanticquality.org/initiatives/sepsis-initiative>



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Sepsis:

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS!

Knowing
the signs
could save
a life.

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What is sepsis?

- Sepsis is your body's overwhelming and life threatening response to an infection.
- Any infection, anywhere in your body, can cause sepsis. An infection is a result of germs entering the body and multiplying.
- **Sepsis is a MEDICAL EMERGENCY!**



Why haven't I heard of sepsis?

- You may have heard of people dying from infections such as pneumonia, blood poisoning or other infections. But often the cause of death may have been sepsis!

Am I at risk for sepsis?

Anyone can get sepsis as a bad outcome from an infection, but the risk for sepsis is greater for...

- children age one year and younger
- people over the age of 65
- people with chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, AIDS, and kidney or liver disease
- people who have been recently hospitalized or are recovering from surgery
- people suffering from a severe burn or wound
- people with weakened immune systems.



**SEPSIS
MORTALITY IS
PREVENTABLE
WITH EARLY
DETECTION
AND
TREATMENT.**

How do I know if I have sepsis?

There is no single sign or symptom of sepsis. Early signs of sepsis involve a combination of symptoms that can include infection (suspect or confirmed)

PLUS*...

- Fever or feeling chilled,
- Confusion/sleepiness,
- Fast heart rate,
- Fast breathing or shortness of breath,
- Extreme pain, and/or
- Pale or discolored skin.



*People with sepsis typically have more than one of these symptoms.

What should I do if I think I have sepsis?

Sepsis is a MEDICAL EMERGENCY!

Call your doctor immediately and tell him/her that you are concerned about sepsis. He/she may instruct you to IMMEDIATELY go to your hospital's emergency department. You may be admitted to the hospital.



What should I expect if my doctor tells me I may have sepsis?

If sepsis is caught early you have a good chance for survival. If caught early you also have a good chance of avoiding long term complications.

- People with sepsis are usually treated in the hospital.
- Doctors will treat your infection with antibiotics
- You will probably need to go to the hospital to have your blood and vital signs tested (blood pressure, heart rate etc.).
- You will probably be given IV antibiotics and IV fluids.
- You may be admitted to the hospital for ongoing care.