

Infection

Infection is the invasion and multiplication of [microorganisms](#) — such as [bacteria](#), [viruses](#), [fungi](#), or [parasites](#) — in the body, which may cause tissue damage and trigger an [immune response](#).

Key Points: Causative agents: Pathogens (e.g., Streptococcus, influenza virus, Candida, Plasmodium)

Routes of entry: Skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, urogenital tract, or bloodstream

Types:

Localized (e.g., skin abscess)

Systemic (e.g., sepsis)

Acute vs. Chronic

Nosocomial (hospital-acquired) vs. community-acquired

Signs/Symptoms: Fever, inflammation, pain, pus, malaise, organ dysfunction (depending on site)

Diagnosis: Cultures, serologies, PCR, imaging

Treatment: Antimicrobials (antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, antiparasitics), supportive care

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