Sepsis 911 Sepsis and Aging



Suspect Sepsis. Save Lives.

What sepsis is

- Sepsis is your body's toxic response to an infection. Instead of fighting the infection, the body turns on itself.
- Sepsis is a major killer in the U.S., killing more than a quarter of a million people every year.
- Sepsis is the #1 killer in hospitals in the U.S.
- About 87% of sepsis cases begin in the community, not in the hospital.



Sepsis and older adults

- Sepsis disproportionally affects older adults.
- Older adults who go into septic shock are sicker than younger patients and they stay longer in the hospital than younger patients.
- Older adults who have had sepsis.
 - Have a higher risk of being left with long-term cognitive impairment and physical problems.
 - Are much more likely to not be able to return home or to their previous living conditions.



What sepsis is NOT

- Sepsis is not blood poisoning
- Sepsis is not an infection
- Sepsis is not contagious
- Sepsis is not rare



Why have so few people heard of sepsis?

Doctors tend not to use the word sepsis.

Death certificates usually state the original infection or illness, not sepsis.

What to do: Say SEPSIS



Sepsis and Aging Video

Sepsis Alliance partnered with the Alliance for Aging Research to produce this 5-minute video

Sepsis in Older Americans: Saving Lives Through Early Recognition

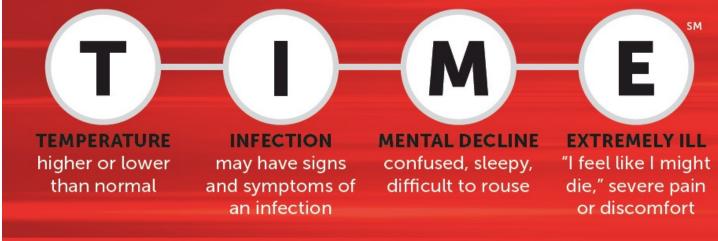




(Watch 5-minute Video)

It's About TIME

When it comes to sepsis, remember IT'S ABOUT TIMETM. Watch for:



Watch for a combination of these symptoms. If you suspect sepsis, see a doctor urgently, CALL 911 or go to a hospital and say, "I AM CONCERNED ABOUT SEPSIS."

©2019 Sepsis Alliance

SEPSIS.ORG





Sepsis is a medical emergency

If you or a loved one have sepsis, the chances of survival drop as much as 8% every hour treatment is delayed.

What to do:

- 1. Call 911
- 2. Tell the operator, "I think it may be sepsis."
- 3. Use the word SEPSIS



Why does sepsis occur?

- Sepsis is a toxic response to infection.
- Sepsis occurs when your body starts to attack itself rather than the infection.
- You must have an infection to have sepsis, but the type of infection is not always identified.



Types of infections that can lead to sepsis

- Bacterial (most common type of infection that can lead to sepsis)
 - Can be spread many ways and result in illnesses like urinary tract infections, MRSA, and bacterial pneumonia

Viral

 Can be spread by touch, body fluid exchange, and in the air, and include illnesses such as the flu and viral pneumonia

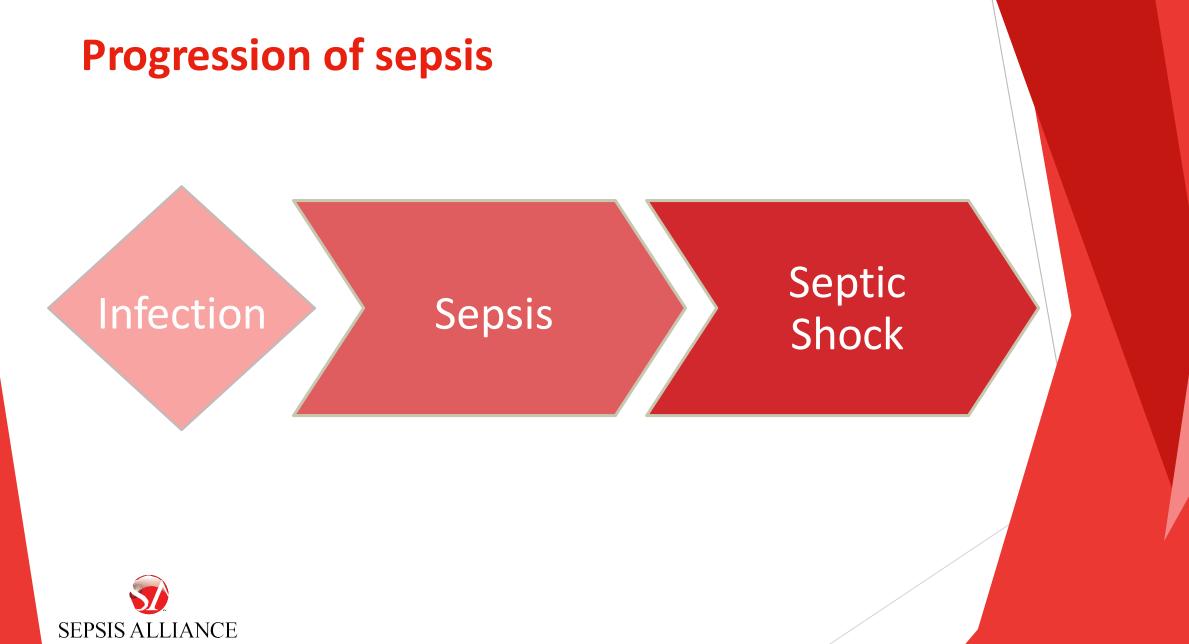
Fungal

 Fungal infections most often appear on the skin, but can be caused by spores inhaled into the lungs or injected into the body

Parasitic

Such as malaria, which is spread by mosquito





Suspect Sepsis. Save Lives.

Sepsis

When it comes to sepsis, remember IT'S ABOUT TIME[™]. Watch for:

TEMPERATURE
higher or lower
than normalINFECTION
may have signs
and symptoms of
an infectionMENTAL DECLINE
confused, sleepy,
difficult to rouseEXTREMELY ILL
to rouse

Watch for a combination of these symptoms. If you suspect sepsis, see a doctor urgently, CALL 911 or go to a hospital and say, "I AM CONCERNED ABOUT SEPSIS."

©2019 Sepsis Alliance

SEPSIS.ORG





Septic Shock

- Septic shock is a severe and potentially fatal condition.
- Life-threatening low blood pressure is present.
- It is the most difficult to treat.





Who gets sepsis?

Anyone can get sepsis especially those:

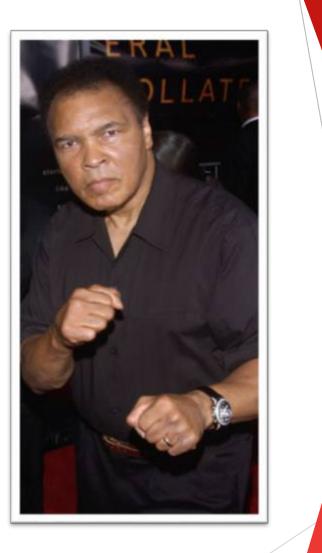
- With chronic illnesses, like COPD
- Who are very young
- Who are older
- Who are immunocompromised (weakened immune system)





Sepsis and Celebrities

- Muhammad Ali 2016
- Patty Duke 2016
- Jim Henson 2010
- Pope John Paul II 2005
- Etta James 2012
- Paul Allen (Microsoft founder) 2018





Complications after treatment

- Post-sepsis syndrome
- PTSD (anxiety, depression, nightmares, flashbacks)
- Organ dysfunction (kidney failure, cognitive difficulties, etc.)
- Amputations





Infection prevention = Sepsis prevention

- Hand washing
- Caring for open wounds
- Taking antibiotics as prescribed
- Staying up-to-date with vaccinations







What you can do: Advocate

- Know the symptoms
- Say the word SEPSIS
- Express your concerns to the medical team
- If you don't understand what the doctor or nurse says, ask for clarification





Thank you

Visit Sepsis.org for more information or email Sepsis Alliance at info@sepsis.org **Connect with us on:** Facebook.com/SepsisAlliance Twitter.com/SepsisAlliance Instagram: @sepsisalliance

Made possible in part by an educational grant from Merck & Co., Inc.

©Sepsis Alliance 2019