

GLOSSARY Nº5: Types of infections



Infection	Chronic	Infection of long duration or persistent in nature, characterized by a lesser degree of inflammation and reduced immune response.
	Recurrent	An infection that happens repeatedly and usually associated with acute episodes.
	Generalised	An infection that is present in several organs at the same time , which happens in the case of sepsis .
	Organ-specific/localized	An infection that is restricted to a single organ , like an ear infection or a urinary infection .

Classification of infection per organ

Infection	What is it?	Symptoms/Clinical manifestations
Bacterial overgrowth (small intestine)	An excessive growth of bacteria in the small bowel which can trigger infections.	It can worsen symptoms, such as diarrhea or loose stools, indigestion and/or malabsorption of nutrients.
Bronchitis	An inflammation of the structures that carry air to and from the lungs (bronchi).	Cough and shortness of breath are the most common and main symptoms.
Cellulitis	A bacterial skin infection.	Manifests as a red, swollen area that feels hot, painful and tender to the touch.
Colitis	An inflammation of the colon (large bowel).	It can cause sores, as well as pain and bleeding.
Cystitis	An inflammation of the bladder, usually caused by an infection.	It can cause pain or burning sensation when voiding the bladder. Urine may also become darker and smell differently.
Encephalitis	An inflammation of the brain, most commonly caused by viral infections.	Symptoms and clinical signs may include headache, fever, confusion, seizures and vomiting.
Endocarditis	An inflammation of the heart. It can be caused by bacteria and other microorganisms circulating in the bloodstream, which attach themselves to the heart.	Signs and symptoms include fever, weakness, weight loss, cardiac murmur, heart failure.
Hepatitis	An inflammation of the liver, more commonly caused by viral infections, although other causes, such as autoimmune diseases may also result in this condition.	Symptoms and clinical signs may include yellow discoloration of the skin and whites of the eyes, poor appetite, vomiting, tiredness, abdominal pain or diarrhea.
Meningitis	An inflammation of the tissue that surrounds the brain and spinal cord (called meninges). It's more often caused by viral infection.	Symptoms and clinical signs may include fever, headache and neck stiffness, and/or inability to tolerate light or loud sounds.
Otitis	An inflammation or infection of the ear. Although, it can happen in adults, it's much more common in children.	Symptoms and clinical signs include pain, fever, hearing difficulties, loss of balance and children can often pull their ear.
Pericarditis	An inflammation of the heart (more specifically of a sac that surrounds the heart called pericardium).	It usually manifests by sharp chest pain, but can also cause heart palpitations, shortness of breath and/or fever.
Pharyngitis	An inflammation of the back of the throat (pharynx), usually caused by a viral infection.	It leads to a sore throat and can also cause fever, and/or difficulty swallowing.
Sepsis	A generalised, very severe type of infection	It can lead to complete organ failure.
Strep throat	A contagious bacterial infection of the throat area.	Symptoms include fever, sore throat, headache, nausea, and vomiting.

Infection	What is it?	Symptoms/Clinical manifestations
Tonsillitis	An inflammation of the tonsils. More often it is caused by a viral infection and has a rapid onset.	Symptoms may include sore throat, fever, enlargement of the tonsils, and/or trouble swallowing.