



Pathophysiology Concept Map

Assigned Alteration: Infection

Why Does it Happen?Risk Factors

Infection occurs due to microorganisms entering the body and causing disease. They are differentiated by bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites.

The risk factors include exposure (via contact, droplets), portal of entry (mouth, cuts, eyes), and other sick individuals.

How is it Diagnosed?Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests

Infection is diagnosed via culture techniques, blood tests, and / or radiologic exams. Blood tests require a sample of blood and are used to create a culture plate. Treatment is tailored to the type of infection (viral, bacterial, parasitic, or fungal).

What is Wrong? Pathophysiologic Alteration

Infection may cause inflammation in response to the pathogen. Fever is also common, as the body is attempting to fight off the internal threat.

What Cues Should the Person Have?Expected Findings

The biggest risk factors regarding infection are (home and community) and education. Physical exposure to various pathogens. Access to healthcare for sick individuals. General education to avoid and prevent infection.

How is it Prevented?Prevention

Prevention of infection transmission includes: Communicable disease, maintaining quarantine, Noncommunicable disease by restriction, shared areas.

NP283, SEP23 Pathophysiology Concept Map Template

Infection has a possibility to get better or worse. Treatment after diagnosis has a possibility to get better, since the healthcare provider has what options the patient has. Conversely, the infection could get worse, leading to complications if treatment is unavailable.

What Cues Should the Person Have?Expected Findings

Local signs of infection involve swelling, redness (erythema), pain / tenderness, swelling of the lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy), pus discharge.

Systemic signs include fever, high WBC count (leukocytosis), fatigue.