

acquired immunity

(ă-kwīrd'īm-ūn'ī-tē)

DEFINITION:

Immunity that results either from exposure to an antigen or from the passive injection of immunoglobulins.



KEEP IN MIND:

Also called passive immunity. Can be acquired from a nursing mother or artificially from an injection of immune serum.

APPLICATION:

The baby received *acquired immunity* from hepatitis B with the immunization given at birth.

NOTES:

active immunity

(ă'k'tiv ĩm-ŭn'ĩ-tē)

DEFINITION:

Immunity resulting from the development of antibodies within the body. This may result from the immune response to an invading organism or from inoculation with a vaccine.



KEEP IN MIND:

Key players in specific immune response are leukocytes, T-cell lymphocytes, B lymphocytes, immunoglobulin, and the complement cascade.

APPLICATION:

To decrease occupational risk of blood borne pathogens, it is recommended that all health-care personnel receive *active immunity* from hepatitis B with a vaccine.

NOTES:

asepsis

(ā-sĕp'sis)

DEFINITION:

A condition free of disease-causing microorganisms.



KEEP IN MIND:

There are two types of asepsis. Medical asepsis includes all practices intended to confine a specific microorganism to a specific area. Surgical asepsis or sterile technique refers to those practices that keeps an area or object free of all microorganisms.

APPLICATION:

To decrease the possibility of transferring microorganisms from one place to another, *asepsis* is used.

NOTES:

body substance isolation (BSI)

(bǒ dē sǔb' stǎns ī' sō-lā' shǔn)

DEFINITION:

A system that employs generic infection-control precautions for all clients except those with a few diseases transmitted through the air.



KEEP IN MIND:

The term body substance includes blood, some body fluids and urine, feces, wound drainage, oral secretions, and any other body product or tissue.

APPLICATION:

The policy at the hospital stated that all clients were to be treated using *body substance isolation*.

NOTES:

communicable disease

(kō-mū'ń-kāh-bl dī-zēz')

DEFINITION:

A disease the causative agents of which may pass or be carried from one person to another directly or indirectly.



KEEP IN MIND:

Modes of transmission include direct contact with body excreta or discharges from an open sore, or respiratory contact; indirect contact with inanimate objects such as drinking glasses or toys.

APPLICATION:

To prevent the spread of *communicable diseases*, isolation practices are used in any health-care practice setting.

NOTES:

immunity

(ĩm-ũnĩ-t ē)

DEFINITION:

Protection from diseases especially infectious diseases.



KEEP IN MIND:

There are two types of immunity: active and passive.

APPLICATION:

An antigen is a substance that induces a state of sensitivity or *immunity*.

NOTES:

isolation

(ī'sō-lā' shŭn)

DEFINITION:

The physical separation of individuals with certain infections from others to prevent or limit the transmission of disease.



KEEP IN MIND:

Isolation practices include personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, face masks, eyewear).

APPLICATION:

The Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) *isolation* precautions (1996) include two tiers: standard precautions and transmission-based precautions.

NOTES:

nosocomial infections

(nŏs'' ō-kŏ'mē-ălĭn-fĕk'shŭun)

DEFINITION:

An infection acquired in a hospital, nursing home, or other health-care setting.



KEEP IN MIND:

Nosocomial infections can either be hospital- or community-acquired.

APPLICATION:

Reports from the National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance (NNIS) system have revealed that the urinary tract, the respiratory tract, bloodstream, and wounds are the most common *nosocomial infection* sites.

NOTES:

passive acquired immunity

(pās' iv ă-kwīrd' im-ūn' ĩ-t ē)

DEFINITION:

Immunity acquired by the introduction of preformed antibodies into an unprotected individual. This can occur through intravenous infusion of immunoglobulins or in utero by antibodies that pass from the mother to fetus.



KEEP IN MIND:

With passive immunity the host receives natural or artificial antibodies produced by another source.

APPLICATION:

The baby received *passive immunity* from its mother's milk during nursing.

NOTES:

standard precautions

(stánderd př-kǒshĕn)

DEFINITION:

Guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reduce the risk of the spread of infection in hospitals. Also referred to as universal precautions.



KEEP IN MIND:

Standard precautions are designed for all clients in the hospital. Hand washing is the most effective technique to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms.

APPLICATION:

Standard precautions include but are not limited to: hand washing; wearing clean gloves when touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions and contaminated items; wearing a mask eye protection or face shield if splashes may occur.

NOTES:

vector borne transmission

(věk'tor born trāns-mīsh' ůn)

DEFINITION:

A carrier, usually an insect or other animal, that transmits the causative organisms of a disease from infected to noninfected individuals.



KEEP IN MIND:

Transmission may occur by injecting salivary fluid during biting or by depositing feces or other materials on the skin through the bite wound.

APPLICATION:

West Nile virus is spread by *vector borne transmission*.

NOTES:

vehicle borne transmission

(vē'ī-kl born trāns-mīsh'ūn)

DEFINITION:

A vehicle is any substance that serves as an intermediate means to transport and introduce an infectious agent into a susceptible host through a suitable portal of entry.



KEEP IN MIND:

Fomites (inanimate materials such as handkerchiefs, toys, soiled clothes, and cooking or eating utensils) are considered vehicles of transmission for organisms. In addition, water, food, blood, serum, and plasma are other vehicles.

APPLICATION:

The food handler, who carried the hepatitis A virus, passed the virus to the customer via *vehicle borne transmission*.

NOTES:
