

One in five deaths worldwide due to sepsis

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Everyone knows the names of big killers like cancer, heart disease and stroke, but few people are aware of one of the biggest killers - sepsis. Sepsis is a life-threatening condition. Doctors say it is responsible for one in five deaths

worldwide. Sepsis happens when our body's response to an infection injures our own organs. Our body normally releases chemicals into the blood to fight an infection. Sepsis occurs when the body releases too many of these chemicals. The chemicals overload our organs and damage them. This damage can lead to organ failure and death. Doctors have traditionally called this blood poisoning. More than half of the sepsis cases reported worldwide occur in children, many of whom are newborn babies.

A study into sepsis was published on January the 16th in the medical journal "The Lancet". Researchers estimated that over 50 million people a year develop sepsis and over 20 per cent die from the illness. This is more than double the percentage previously estimated. The researchers said sepsis kills more people than cancer. Professor Mohsen Naghavi, a senior author of the research, said: "We are alarmed to find sepsis deaths are much higher than previously estimated, especially as the condition is both preventable and treatable." He said more research is needed to stop sepsis killing newborns. Doctors can treat sepsis with antibiotics if the condition is found early.

Sources: abcnews.go.com / livescience.com / standard.co.uk

Writing

One day all of the world's diseases will be gone. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

big killers / cancer / heart disease / infection / organs / blood poisoning / doctors / a study / sepsis / journal / percentage / alarmed / condition / treatable / antibiotics

True / False

- a) The article said everyone knows the name of a condition called sepsis. T / F
- b) Sepsis happens when our own body's organs injure an infection. T / F
- c) Sepsis happens when the body releases too few chemical. T / F
- d) Most of the cases of sepsis are in children and babies. T / F
- e) A medical journal said sepsis kills 50 million people a year. T / F
- f) The number of sepsis deaths is twice that scientists previously thought. T / F
- g) Sepsis is a bigger killer than cancer. T / F
- h) Antibiotics are no good for treating sepsis. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. condition | a. hurt |
| 2. response | b. happen |
| 3. damage | c. curable |
| 4. cases | d. calculated |
| 5. occur | e. illness |
| 6. published | f. disturbed |
| 7. estimated | g. issued |
| 8. alarmed | h. instances |
| 9. treatable | i. discovered |
| 10. found | j. reaction |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about sepsis?
- b) What are the world's biggest killers?
- c) Why haven't we found a cure for all the big diseases?
- d) What diseases are you worried about?
- e) How can we keep our bodies strong to fight infections?
- f) What infections have you had?
- g) How healthy are you?
- h) What do you know about sepsis?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. few people are aware | a. with antibiotics |
| 2. fight an | b. people than cancer |
| 3. This damage can lead to organ | c. are newborn babies |
| 4. blood | d. estimated |
| 5. many of whom | e. infection |
| 6. over 50 million people a | f. and treatable |
| 7. double the percentage previously | g. poisoning |
| 8. sepsis kills more | h. failure and death |
| 9. the condition is both preventable | i. year develop sepsis |
| 10. Doctors can treat sepsis | j. of one of the biggest killers |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should we all read medical journals?
- Why is it that so few people know about sepsis?
- Will you go online to find out more about sepsis?
- What one disease would you like to find a cure for?
- Should we cure all diseases so we can live to be over 100?
- What do you know about antibiotics?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Spelling

- heart asseiid
- Sepsis is a life-threatening ondtnicio
- our body's serenops to an infection
- Our body normally releases aecmcishl
- overload our rnsaog and damage them
- blood gopsoniin
- elihsbdpu on January the 16th
- This is more than double the tpgrenecea
- a snroei author of the research
- much higher than ousierpvyl estimated
- preventable and ettalabre
- treat sepsis with tsciaontib

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. j	3. a	4. h	5. b
6. g	7. d	8. f	9. c	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Exercise

You think exercise is the best way to keep diseases away. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): healthy eating, hand-washing or staying at home.

Role B – Healthy Eating

You think healthy eating is the best way to keep diseases away. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): exercise, hand-washing or staying at home.

Role C – Hand-washing

You think hand-washing is the best way to keep diseases away. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): healthy eating, exercise or staying at home.

Role D – Staying at Home

You think staying at home is the best way to keep diseases away. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): healthy eating, hand-washing or exercise.

Speaking – Prevention

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of preventing diseases at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • Hand-washing | • Exercise |
| • Wear a mask | • Healthy eating |
| • Inoculations | • Vitamins |
| • Stay at home | • Sleep |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.