



CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY

People receiving chemotherapy are often at risk for developing an infection when their white blood cell count is low. For these patients, any infection can quickly become serious and effective antibiotics are critical for protecting the patient from severe complications or death.

COMPLEX SURGERY

Patients who receive cardiac bypass, joint replacements, and other complex surgeries are at risk of a surgical site infection (SSI). These infections can make recovery from surgery more difficult because they can cause additional illness, stress, cost, and even death. For some, but not all surgeries, antibiotics are given before surgery to help prevent infections.



RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Inflammatory arthritis affects the immune system, which controls how well the body fights off infections. People with certain types of arthritis have a higher risk of getting infections. Also, many medications given to treat inflammatory arthritis can weaken the immune system. Effective antibiotics help ensure that arthritis patients can continue to receive treatment.

DIALYSIS FOR END-STAGE RENAL DISEASE

Patients who undergo dialysis treatment have an increased risk for getting a bloodstream infection. In fact, bloodstream infections are the second leading cause of death in dialysis patients. Infections also complicate heart disease, the leading cause of death in dialysis patients. Infection risk is higher in these patients because they have weakened immune systems and often require catheters or needles to enter their bloodstream. Effective antibiotics help ensure that dialysis patients can continue to receive life-saving treatment.



ORGAN AND BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS

Transplant recipients are more vulnerable to infections. Because a patient undergoes complex surgery and receives medicine to weaken the immune system for a year or more, the risk of infection is high. It is estimated that 1% of organs transplanted in the United States each year carry a disease that comes from the donor—either an infection or cancer. Effective antibiotics help ensure that organ transplants remain possible.