



SEPSIS ALLIANCE

WWW.SEPSISALLIANCE.ORG

Sepsis Treatment: A Glossary of Terms

Sepsis occurs when an infection or injury causes your body to stop protecting you, and starts to attack you instead.

Treatment options vary based on individual's symptoms and condition.

Caregivers can provide important information that can help the medical team select appropriate treatments.

Sepsis is a serious condition that can lead to organ failure and death. The medical equipment used to treat sepsis may seem scary and confusing. This fact sheet includes an explanation of some terms you may commonly come across while caring for your loved one.

Not all the treatments and medications described below may be appropriate for every individual. Your health care team will have to decide on the appropriate course of treatment based on the individual's symptoms and condition. Talk to your medical team to learn more about sepsis, and to understand which treatment options are suitable for your loved one.

Activated protein C

One of the drugs used to stop the spread of sepsis, e.g., Xigris © (Drotrecogin alfa).

Broad spectrum antibiotics
Catheter

Drugs effective in treating a variety of infections.

Thin plastic tube used to transfer fluid into or out of the body, e.g., a urinary catheter drains urine from the bladder.

CRRT

Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy. Cleaning of blood when the kidneys fail. It is also called dialysis.

Cultures

Tests to identify infections.

Intravenous fluids (IV)

A salt solution given in the vein to raise blood pressure.

Labs

Medical tests used to help treat sepsis.

Ventilator

Machine that helps an individual breathe.

Vasopressors

Drugs used to raise blood pressure.

Talk to your medical team to understand your treatment options.

For more information:

Factsheets in the series:

What is Sepsis?

Sepsis: Understanding Risk

Websites:

The Sepsis Alliance: www.sepsisalliance.org

International Sepsis Forum: www.sepsisforum.org/whitebook.htm

Surviving Sepsis Campaign: www.survivingsepsis.org