Primary Immunodeficiency
Primary Immunodeficiency

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Primary Immunodeficiency

I. What is it?

The Immune System, it’s our only defense... but it doesn’t work for everyone. Each and every day, your body fights off infections, germs, bacteria, and viruses. These invaders, called pathogens, are destroyed by the body’s number one defense, the immune system.

Some people are born with immune systems that don’t work as well as others. This could be due to Primary Immunodeficiency, which might cause a person to be sick more often than others.

Primary Immunodeficiency is a genetic condition and is not contagious.
Primary Immunodeficiency

I. What is it?

Primary Immunodeficiencies (PI) are a group of more than 400 disorders of the immune system with varying degrees of severity. They occur when one or more essential parts of the immune system do not work correctly.

Primary Immunodeficiency may often present itself in the form of "ordinary" infections.

People with Primary Immunodeficiency cannot get rid of pathogens or protect themselves from these pathogens as well as they should, causing frequent infections and other problems that are hard to cure. Infections may appear to be common illnesses such as sinus and ear infections, pneumonia, fever, common colds, and bronchitis.

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There are a number of signs and symptoms of Primary Immunodeficiency. Although it varies somewhat from individual to individual and disorder to disorder, there are some signs and symptoms that occur commonly in many of the disorders. Perhaps the most common problem that patients with a Primary Immunodeficiency have is an increased susceptibility to infection.

Primary Immunodeficiency patients have too many, and often recurrent, infections.
Primary Immunodeficiency

II. 10 Warning Signs

The group of ten symptoms and traits that are the most common amongst patients with Primary Immunodeficiency are known as the 10 Warning Signs.

Most importantly, if you or someone you know is affected by two or more of the 10 Warning Signs, speak to a physician about the possible presence of an underlying Primary Immunodeficiency.

Let’s take a look at the 10 Warning Signs of Primary Immunodeficiency
10 Warning Signs of Primary Immunodeficiency

Primary Immunodeficiency (PI) causes children and adults to have infections that come back frequently or are unusually hard to cure. 1:500 persons are affected by one of the known Primary Immunodeficiencies. If you or someone you know is affected by two or more of the following Warning Signs, speak to a physician about the possible presence of an underlying Primary Immunodeficiency.

1. Four or more new ear infections within 1 year.
2. Two or more serious sinus infections within 1 year.
3. Two or more months on antibiotics with little effect.
4. Two or more pneumonias within 1 year.
5. Failure of an infant to gain weight or grow normally.
6. Recurrent, deep skin or organ abscesses.
7. Persistent thrush in mouth or fungal infection on skin.
8. Need for intravenous antibiotics to clear infections.
9. Two or more deep-seated infections including septicemia.
10. A family history of PI.

Presented as a public service by:

Jeffrey Modell Foundation  Curing PI. Worldwide.

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These warning signs were developed by the Jeffrey Modell Foundation Medical Advisory Board. Consultation with Primary Immunodeficiency experts is strongly suggested. © 2016 Jeffrey Modell Foundation. For information or referrals, contact the Jeffrey Modell Foundation: info4pi.org

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Primary Immunodeficiency

II. 10 Warning Signs

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II. 10 Warning Signs

6. Recurrent, deep skin or organ abscesses.

7. Persistent thrush in mouth or fungal infection on skin.

8. Need for intravenous antibiotics to clear infections.

9. Two or more deep-seated infections including septicemia.

10. A family history of Primary Immunodeficiency.
Primary Immunodeficiency

III. How to treat it?

Once a Primary Immunodeficiency diagnosis is established, much can be done for patients. When appropriate, immunoglobulin therapy is the accepted protocol for a wide range of Primary Immunodeficiencies.

Patients with Primary Immunodeficiency are able to gain and maintain control of their lives with treatment and intervention. They are able to participate in work, school, family, and social activities. They have fewer and less severe infections. They feel good about their treatment programs and, most importantly, themselves.
Primary Immunodeficiency

IV. Find an Expert!

Use the Jeffrey Modell Foundation’s Find an Expert Immunologist tool to search for an immunologist in your area.
Primary Immunodeficiency

V. True or False?

You can catch Primary Immunodeficiency from your neighbor. **FALSE!**

If someone coughs a lot, they have Primary Immunodeficiency. **FALSE!**

People with Primary Immunodeficiency may get sick more often that others, and if they do, they may stay sick longer. **TRUE!**

Primary Immunodeficiency patients have many treatment options to help them feel better and live normal lives. **TRUE!**