

interleukin

a cytokine chemical that acts between lymphocytes

intervention studies

studies used to test the effectiveness of a treatment or public health program in preventing the incidence of a disease in the population

Koch's postulates

the steps that must be followed to determine if a particular micro-organism is responsible for causing a disease

kuru

a disease caused by prions; found in tribes in New Guinea

macro-parasites

multicellular eukaryotic organisms that are visible to the naked eye and that can either live inside the body (endoparasites) or outside the body (ectoparasites)

macrophages

a phagocyte responsible for destroying pathogens causing chronic infections; also involved in the recognition of antigens by the helper T cells

memory T cells

produced at the same time as the cytotoxic T cells; specific to a particular antigen and remain in the body to initiate an immune response if the same antigen enters the body in the future

mesothelioma

a rare form of malignant cancer that occurs in the mesothelium (the protective lining covering most of the internal organs); most commonly occurs in the plural membrane of people who have been exposed to asbestos

micro-organisms

those organisms that cannot be seen unaided

mitosis

the process of cell division whereby somatic (body) cells undergo a single nuclear division, giving rise to two genetically identical daughter cells

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| mucous membrane | membranes that produce a thick layer of mucus to trap pathogens |
| narrow-spectrum antibiotics | antibiotics that act on only one or two types of bacteria |
| neutrophil | the phagocyte responsible for destroying the pathogens causing acute infections |
| non-infectious | a disease that is not caused by a pathogen |
| non-specific responses | responses by the immune system that are not directed to a particular antigen; will occur no matter what antigen is invading the body |

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| other body secretions | substances such as urine, tears and saliva produced by the body that inhibit the entry of pathogens into the body |
| passive acquired immunity | occurs when antibodies are injected into the body to prevent a specific disease from developing; the body does not undergo the immune response to produce memory cells |
| pasteurisation | a method of preserving food by heating it to a certain temperature for a length of time to kill off any pathogens |
| pathogen | any organisms or infective agent that lives in or on another living organism and causes a disease |
| penicillin | a chemical compound produced by the mould penicillin; an antibiotic used to reduce bacterial infections |