

## — Infections

Infectious diseases are disorders caused by organisms; such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. Many organisms live in and on our bodies. They're normally harmless or even helpful, but some organisms under certain conditions may cause disease.

Some infectious diseases can be passed from person to person while some are transmitted via bites from insects or animals. Others are acquired by ingesting contaminated food or water or other exposures in the environment.

Signs and symptoms vary, but often include fever and chills. Mild complaints may respond to home remedies, while some life-threatening infections may require hospitalization.

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## Infections

Infectious diseases kill more people worldwide than any other single cause. Infectious diseases are caused by germs. Germs are tiny living things that are found everywhere - in air, soil and water. You can get infected by touching, eating, drinking or breathing something that contains a germ. Germs can also spread through animal and insect bites, kissing and sexual contact. Vaccines, proper hand washing and medicines can help prevent infections. There are four main kinds of germs:

- Bacteria - one-celled germs that multiply quickly and may release chemicals which can make you sick
- Viruses - capsules that contain genetic material, and use your own cells to multiply
- Fungi - primitive plants, like mushrooms or mildew
- Protozoa - one-celled animals that use other living things for food and a place to live

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☐ ECHINOCOCCUS ...

**NEGATIVE**

Range: See Comments

### ECHINOCOCCUS AB (IGG)

#### Result Comments

REFERENCE RANGE: NEGATIVE

Detection of serum antibodies to Echinococcus plays an important role in the diagnosis of hydatid disease, since infected individuals do not exhibit fecal shedding of Echinococcus eggs. Serum antibodies may remain detectable for years after cyst removal. Serologic crossreactivity between Echinococcus and Cysticercus may occur.