

— 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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Bacterial Infections

Bacteria are living things that have only one cell. Most bacteria won't hurt you and less than one percent of the different types make people sick. Many bacteria are helpful. By example they help to digest food, destroy disease-causing cells, and give the body needed vitamins. However, infectious bacteria can make you ill by reproducing quickly in your body. Many give off chemicals called toxins, which can damage tissue and make you sick. Examples of several bacteria that cause infections include Streptococcus, Staphylococcus and E. coli. Antibiotics are typically used for treatment.

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TRYPANOSOMA C...

NONREACTIVE

Range: See Comments

TRYPANOSOMA CRUZI AB, TOTAL

Result Comments

REFERENCE RANGE: NONREACTIVE

The enzyme immunoassay for T. cruzi (Chagas disease) total antibodies is sensitive and specific for acute or chronic American trypanosomiasis. However, cross-reactivity may be observed in patients with leishmaniasis. Specimens with an indeterminate or reactive total antibody result are tested using a confirmatory T. cruzi IgG lateral flow assay that uses different antigens as per CDC recommendations. A positive confirmatory assay result supports the diagnosis of Chagas disease, whereas a negative confirmatory assay result suggests the total antibody result was falsely indeterminate/reactive.