

Exits of Bacteria from Body

From the standpoint of defensive hygiene or prevention it is important to know the mode of exit of the disease producing bacteria from the body of the infected individual.

- (a) Nose and throat
- (b) Bowels or bladder
- (c) Mucous membranes (genital)
- (d) Blood (indirect by insects)

Fate of Bacteria in the Body

Every human being is constantly taking micro-organisms into his body. The fate of these organisms within the body has a vital relationship to defensive hygiene. They may:

- (a) Live, multiply and produce disease
- (b) Live, multiply without producing disease--"carriers"
- (c) Killed by defensive mechanisms of body.

Determiners of Infection

Whether an individual who takes micro-organisms into his body will develop disease or not depends upon a number of factors:

- (a) Type of organism
- (b) Virulence or strength of organism
- (c) Number of organisms
- (d) Degree of resistance or immunity possessed by the individual.

Course of Infection

A brief outline of a typical infection will serve as a basis for a better understanding of what is happening in disease caused by micro-organisms.

- (a) Cause--a specific bacteria or protozoa taken into the body.
- (b) Incubation period--a battle of resisting forces with infecting organism.
- (c) Symptoms:
 - 1. Premonitory
 - 2. Onset
 - 3. Fully developed
- (d) Results:
 - 1. Recovery
 - 2. Degeneration of organs
 - 3. Death

Mechanism of Infection

How do micro-organisms cause disease? We must remember that they, being living organisms, cannot survive unless conditions are favorable for them. They must carry out their fundamental cycles of life: (a) respiration, (b) nutrition, (c) excretion, (d) reproduction.