

Sources of infection

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Endogenous : present in or on the host, e.g. SSSI following contamination of the wound from a perforated appendix
Exogenous : acquired from a source outside the body, such as the operating theatre (inadequate air filtration, poor antisepsis) or the ward (e.g. poor handwashing compliance).
The cause of hospital-acquired infection (HAI)
Host response
Virulence and inoculum of infective agent
Vascularity and health of tissue being invaded (including local ischaemia as well as systemic shock)
Presence of dead or foreign tissue
Presence of antibiotics during the 'decisive period'
Malnutrition (obesity, weight loss)
Metabolic disease (diabetes, uraemia, jaundice)
Immunosuppression (cancer, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome [AIDS], steroids, chemotherapy and radiotherapy)
Colonisation and translocation in the gastrointestinal tract
Poor perfusion (systemic shock or local ischaemia)
Foreign body material
Poor surgical technique (devitalised tissue, dead space, haematoma)

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