

PATIENT EDUCATION PAMPHLET

TESTING FOR POTENTIAL INFECTIONS

When should I get tested for fungal or bacterial infections?

Fungi and bacteria are everywhere. Although there are millions of fungal species, there are only about 300 species of fungi that make people sick. Fungal infections are usually caused by microscopic fungi that are common in the environment. Fungi and bacteria live in soil, plants on many indoor surfaces and on human skin, nail or in urine. Anyone can get a bacterial or fungal infection, even people who are otherwise healthy.

Mild fungal skin infections can look like a rash and are quite common. For example, ringworm on skin or young children's scalp is a fungal infection not a worm! Because symptoms of fungal and bacterial infections can be similar to those of other illnesses, proper diagnosis and treatment are often delayed. For people with weak immune systems, fungi and bacteria are more likely to cause an infection.


What are your chances of getting an infection?

Your chances of getting an infection are greater if you:

- Own a dog or a cat (ring-worm)
- if you take medications that effect your immune system (diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, HIV/Aids)
- if you're receiving chemotherapy or radiation
- if you're are hospitalized
- if you've had an illness like pneumonia that isn't getting better

The more you know

The more you know about fungal and bacterial infections, and the chances of you or your family getting one, the better you can protect your health. Talk to your healthcare provider today about the signs, symptoms and prevention tips of fungal and bacterial infections. Meanwhile, below are a few more commonly known fungal and bacterial infections that you may be familiar with.



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Onychomycosis (nail fungus)

Fungal infections in the nail can cause pain, discomfort and disfigurement that affect quality of life. At Ipsum your sample is analyzed by an advanced test called Polymerase Chain Reaction – or simply, PCR.

PCR is known as the “Gold Standard” and your best source for quickly identifying the infection-causing agent(s). This information enables your provider to select the appropriate course of treatment to get you well, which may include anti-fungal medication. Early, quick and accurate detection is important as it reduces treatment time.

Wounds (bacteria)

Most wound infections are caused by bacteria. Acute and chronic wounds have the potential to become infected. Also, some bacteria contain antibiotic resistant genes that make some medications ineffective. PCR testing rapidly identifies these resistant genes, if present to reduce treatment failure and curb the development of drug resistant superbugs.

What is PCR?

PCR, short for Polymerase Chain Reaction, is a lab technique that can quickly identifies infection causing organisms. Small quantities of DNA in a sample are amplified, (that is increased in number) and detected using a targeted approach for finding the pathogens (fungal and bacterial).

Ipsum Diagnostic’s PCR techniques more accurately and rapidly identifies potential pathogenic organisms and resistant genes than conventional wound culture methods. It is amazing to think that we can now identify the infection and the medication that will stop it in its tracks!

Once you know the bug, you can select the right drug!

Having access to the latest scientific methods, allows your doctor to properly diagnose the cause of your infection and order the appropriate medication allowing you to start treatment with confidence!