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One in five deaths worldwide due to sepsis – 20th January, 2020

Level 0

We know the names of killers like cancer, but not sepsis. This is dangerous. It is one of the world's biggest killers. Sepsis happens when our body puts too many chemicals into our blood to fight disease. The chemicals can damage our organs and kill us. Doctors once called this blood poisoning. Most sepsis cases are in children.

A study in a medical journal said 50 million people a year get sepsis. Twenty per cent of these die. This is double what we thought. Sepsis kills more people than cancer. A doctor is "alarmed" because sepsis, "is both preventable and treatable". He wants to stop sepsis killing babies. Doctors can treat sepsis with antibiotics.

Level 1

We know the names of big killers like cancer, but few people know sepsis. This is life-threatening and is one of the world's biggest killers. One in five deaths worldwide is because of it. Sepsis happens when our body releases too many chemicals into the blood to fight infections. The chemicals damage our organs and can cause organ failure and death. Doctors once called this blood poisoning. Most sepsis cases are in children and newborn babies.

A study into sepsis was in a medical journal. It said 50 million people a year develop sepsis, and 20 per cent of these die. This is double that we thought before. Sepsis kills more people than cancer. A professor said: "We are alarmed to find sepsis deaths are much higher than previously estimated, especially as the condition is both preventable and treatable." He wants to stop sepsis killing newborns. Doctors can treat sepsis with antibiotics.

Level 2

We know the names of big killers like cancer and heart disease, but few people know sepsis. This is a life-threatening condition and one of the world's biggest killers. It is responsible for one in five deaths worldwide. Sepsis happens when our body releases too many chemicals into the blood to fight an infection. The chemicals overload our organs and damage them. This damage can cause organ failure and death. Doctors have always called this blood poisoning. More than half of the sepsis cases worldwide occur in children. Many of these are newborn babies.

A study into sepsis was published in a medical journal. Researchers said over 50 million people a year develop sepsis. Over 20 per cent of these die. This is more than double the percentage previously thought. Sepsis kills more people than cancer. A senior author of the research, said: "We are alarmed to find sepsis deaths are much higher than previously estimated, especially as the condition is both preventable and treatable." He wants more research to stop sepsis killing newborns. Doctors can treat sepsis with antibiotics if it is found early.

Level 3

Everyone knows the names of big killers like cancer, heart disease and stroke, but few people are aware of one of the biggest killers - sepsis. Sepsis is a life-threatening condition. Doctors say it is responsible for one in five deaths worldwide. Sepsis happens when our body's response to an infection injures our own organs. Our body normally releases chemicals into the blood to fight an infection. Sepsis occurs when the body releases too many of these chemicals. The chemicals overload our organs and damage them. This damage can lead to organ failure and death. Doctors have traditionally called this blood poisoning. More than half of the sepsis cases reported worldwide occur in children, many of whom are newborn babies.

A study into sepsis was published on January the 16th in the medical journal "The Lancet". Researchers estimated that over 50 million people a year develop sepsis and over 20 per cent die from the illness. This is more than double the percentage previously estimated. The researchers said sepsis kills more people than cancer. Professor Mohsen Naghavi, a senior author of the research, said: "We are alarmed to find sepsis deaths are much higher than previously estimated, especially as the condition is both preventable and treatable." He said more research is needed to stop sepsis killing newborns. Doctors can treat sepsis with antibiotics if the condition is found early.

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