

Drugs that prevent rejection also raise the risk of infection. Your greatest risk for infection is during the first month or so after the transplant, when your doses of immunosuppression drugs are higher. As the doses are lowered, you will be less prone to infection. You need to learn the signs of infection and call the transplant coordinator immediately if you may have been exposed to someone with an infection or a known illness.

What are the signs of infection?

The signs of infection are:

- fever over 100° F
- flu-like symptoms: chills, aches, tiredness, headache, dizziness, nausea or vomiting
- cough or shortness of breath
- sore throat or earache
- diarrhea
- drainage from a wound, or sore that won't heal or is warm to the touch
- white or gray film or patches on the tongue or mouth
- decreased appetite
- vaginal itching or drainage
- swollen glands
- burning, increase in number of times you urinate, or feeling you have to urinate even though you just did

How can I help prevent infection?



- Wash your hands well and often with soap and water for at least 30 seconds.
- Visit your dentist regularly and practice good mouth care.
- Stay away from people who are sick or people who have measles, mumps, chicken pox, shingles or the flu.
- Avoid crowded areas.
- Don't change kitty litter, fish tank water, or touch any pet's urine or feces.

What are the tests that the doctor may order?

The doctor may order:

- blood cultures
- urine cultures
- sputum cultures

What are the medicines used to treat and/or prevent infections?



The medicines used to treat and/or prevent infections are:

- antibiotics for bacterial infections
- antifungal medicines for fungal infections
- antiviral medicines for viral infections