

Antibody Mediated Immunity

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Table 13.10 The Four Types of Acquired Immunity

Natural Immunity is acquired through the normal life experiences of a human and is not induced through medical means.



Active

After recovering from infectious disease, a person will generally be actively resistant to reinfection for a period that varies according to the disease. In the case of childhood viral infections such as measles, mumps, and rubella, this natural active stimulus provides nearly lifelong immunity. Other diseases result in a less extended immunity of a few months to years (such as pneumococcal pneumonia and shigellosis), and reinfection is possible. Even a subclinical infection can stimulate natural active immunity. This probably accounts for the fact that some people are immune to an infectious agent without ever having been noticeably infected with or vaccinated for it.



Passive

Natural, passively acquired immunity occurs only as a result of the prenatal and postnatal mother-child relationship. During fetal life, IgG antibodies circulating in the maternal bloodstream are small enough to pass or be actively transported across the placenta. This natural mechanism provides an infant with a mixture of many maternal antibodies that can protect it for the first few critical months outside the womb, while its own immune system is gradually developing active immunity. Depending on the microbe, passive protection lasts anywhere from a few months to a year.

Another source of natural passive immunity comes to the baby by way of the mother's milk. Although the human infant acquires 99% of natural passive immunity in utero and only about 1% through nursing, the milk-borne antibodies provide a special type of intestinal protection that is not available from transplacental antibodies.

Artificial Immunity is that produced purposefully through medical procedures.



Active

Vaccination exposes a person to a specially prepared microbial (antigenic) stimulus, which then triggers the immune system to produce antibodies and lymphocytes to protect the person upon future exposure to that microbe. As with natural active immunity, the degree and length of protection vary.



Passive

Passive immunotherapy involves a preparation that contains specific antibodies against a particular infectious agent. Pooled human serum from donor blood (gamma globulin) and immune serum globulins containing high quantities of antibodies are frequently used.

How Do You Classify Acquired Immunity?

You Need to Ask Two Critical Questions?

1st – Is the acquired immunity acquired by a **natural or artificial method**?

2nd – Is the acquired immunity acquired by an **active or passive method**?

There are four possible outcomes for Humoral Acquired Immunity!

- *Natural active acquired immunity*
- *Natural passive acquired immunity*
- *Artificial active acquired immunity*
- *Artificial passive acquired immunity*

What is the meaning of natural and artificial?

- **Natural immunity**
 - Stimulus activates immune response in an individual
 - Acquired through normal human experience
 - Production of one's own antibodies or T cells
- **Artificial immunity**
 - Produced as a result of a medical procedure or “not by a common natural process”
 - Antibodies are not acquired or made by the host's own plasma cells
 - Stimulus is not an active pathogen // weakened so it does not produce disease

What is the meaning of active and passive?

- **Active immunity**
 - Host will use their immune cells to make antibodies, T cells, memory cells
 - Results in memory cell formation and lasting protection
- **Passive immunity**
 - Host receives antibodies from another source
 - Antibodies received from donor across membrane // E.g. fetus acquires antibodies from mother through placenta or from mother's milk through breastfeeding
 - Antibodies received from injection of serum
 - No memory cells formed, no lasting protection

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What are the four types of acquired immunity?

- **Natural active acquired immunity**
 - This is the common immune response
 - Pathogen enters host to stimulates B and T cells
 - Host produces their own antibodies and/or T cells
 - Booster shots – may be needed periodically to stimulate immune memory to maintain a high level of protection
- **Natural passive acquired immunity**
 - Antibodies “naturally” produced by mother
 - Mother then transfers antibodies to fetus or newborn child
 - Mother’s IgG small enough to cross placenta and enter fetus
 - IgA may cross from mother to new born during breast feeding

What are the four types of acquired immunity?

Artificial active acquired immunity

- This is a vaccination procedure
- Inject host with attenuated virus, toxin, or weakened bacteria
- Vaccine will not cause a disease state
- Goal is to have vaccine stimulate host immune system to make memory T and memory B cells

Artificial passive acquired immunity

- This is an anti-serum made against a fast acting toxin
- A test animal is injected with toxin so animal makes antibodies
- Harvest antibodies from animal and store as antiserum
- Inject antibodies into host exposed to toxin to render pathogen harmless
- e.g. antiserum for rattle snake bite

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