Recovery from sepsis can occur. Many individuals recover without any residual dysfunction. Some sepsis survivors will have long-term recovery needs based on organ or tissue damage from the septic event. If there is severe trauma to the extremities, amputation may be performed. Some patients have post-traumatic stress syndrome, a mental health condition, as a result of the trauma of the septic event.

WHAT TO DO

IMAGING STUDIES

• chest X-ray
• lung ultrasound
• CT scan of head
• abdominal ultrasound

TESTS

• Blood cultures
• CBC
• Procalcitonin
• LDH
• Lactate

TREATMENTS

Treatment is provided by experts in a hospital setting. Treatment includes support of life-sustaining bodily functions along with antibiotics to control the spreading infection.

• Antibiotics are provided to control the infection.
• Typically, individuals with sepsis or septic shock will receive IV fluid therapy and oxygen.
• Medications are provided according to the individual’s symptoms such as: medication to control blood pressure, insulin for high blood glucose, corticosteroids to decrease inflammation, and medicine to control pain.
• Surgery is decided on a case-by-case basis as needed to control infection or complications.
• Therapy is indicated for supportive care to maintain and restore function.
• If the respiratory system is affected, mechanical ventilation may be required.
• If kidney failure is present, dialysis may be required.

GENERAL SYMPTOMS OF SEPSIS

SEPSIS

WHAT IT IS

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body’s response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. Sepsis leads to shock, multiple organ failure and death—especially if not recognized early and treated promptly. In individuals with paralytic/spinal cord injury, an infection might begin as a urinary tract (bladder) infection, pneumonia, or as a wound, pressure ulcer or other infection. If the infection is not controlled locally, it can spread throughout the body. Sepsis is then diagnosed. Septic shock is severe sepsis with a drop in blood pressure leading to organ failure. Both sepsis and septic shock are life-threatening. Sometimes sepsis is called blood poisoning or systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS).

Sepsis can occur due to a spreading infection in the body, after surgery or invasive procedure, or from a simple cut or scratch.

Sepsis is a medical emergency that must be treated immediately. Anyone with an infection must be aware of the risk of development of sepsis.

Treatment is most successful within the first hour of onset.