

Topic: HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

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Immunity

Lymphocytes

Lymphocytes are associated with the protection of the body against foreign material. There are 2 types of lymphocytes that function. They are,

- a) T-lymphocytes
- b) B - lymphocytes.

These are found in lymph node and spleen. Antigens are foreign bodies such as bacteria, virus or any toxin that enters the body. The T-lymphocytes produce a number of chemical substances that act against antigens such as viruses, pollen, fungi and bacteria. The B - lymphocytes produce antibodies that ingest the foreign particles.

Types of Immunity.

- 1. Active Immunity:** Here the individual responds to an antigen and produces antibodies specific to one microbe. This can be natural or artificial.
- 2. Passive Immunity:** Here the individual is given antibodies produced by someone else. The readymade antibodies are injected into the infected person.

Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

This condition is caused by the human immune deficiency virus (HIV). HIV acts mainly on T - lymphocytes. When they are infected their number is reduced, causing suppression of T-cell immunity leading to infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis and malignant tumours.

