

Types of Immunity

Innate immunity

The natural defense mechanism of all organisms is known as innate immunity.

Acquired immunity

The resistance developed by man during his life time is known as acquired immunity. Acquired immunity is of two types namely active and passive.

Active immunity is the resistance developed by an individual in response to an antigenic stimulus. It involves production of immunologically active cells.

Natural active immunity is developed by the host in response to the antigen that enters by natural infections. E.g.: A person attacked by measles or small pox develops natural immunity as he recovers from the disease.

Artificial active immunity is attained by the host in response to the antigen got by vaccination.

The immunity that non immune individuals acquires by receiving antibodies or sensitized white blood cells from another immune individual is known as passive immunity. The immunity caused by passive immunization is less effective and inferior than that caused by active immunization. The main advantage of this is that it is immediate in its action.

The immunity transferred from the mother to the child passively is known as natural passive immunity.

Transfer of immunity from an immunized donor to a non immune, recipient by transferring antibodies is known as artificial passive immunity. Eg: Snake bite.

Adaptive immunity: This is a type of passive immunity produced by injecting immunologically competent lymphocytes and not by injecting antibodies. This method is adopted in the treatment of tuberculosis and leprosy.

