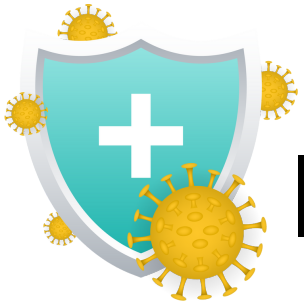

The Immune System

Read the passage below and answer the questions on the next page.

The immune system is the body's natural defense against disease. It is a complex network of cells, tissues, and organs that work together to protect the body from harmful invaders like viruses, bacteria, and parasites.

The immune system has two main parts: the innate immune system and the adaptive immune system. The innate immune system provides immediate, non-specific protection against a wide range of pathogens. It includes physical barriers like skin and mucous membranes, as well as cells like white blood cells and natural killer cells that can quickly attack and destroy invaders.

The adaptive immune system provides long-term protection against specific pathogens. It includes cells like T cells and B cells that can recognize and remember specific pathogens, allowing the body to mount a targeted response if the pathogen is encountered again in the future.

When the immune system detects a pathogen, it triggers an immune response. This response involves the production of antibodies and the activation of immune cells that can attack and destroy the pathogen. In some cases, the immune response can cause inflammation and other symptoms like fever, as the body works to eliminate the invader.

A healthy immune system is essential for good health. However, certain factors can weaken the immune system, making it more vulnerable to disease. These factors include poor nutrition, lack of sleep, stress, and certain medical conditions and medications.

1) What is the immune system according to the text?

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2. What are the two main parts of the immune system?

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3) What happens when the immune system detects a pathogen?

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4) Why is a healthy immune system important?

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5) What are some factors that can weaken the immune system?

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