

Secondary immunodeficiency

Secondary immunodeficiency (SID) happens when the immune system is weakened by another treatment or illness rather than by an underlying genetic cause.

Causes of SID

There are many potential causes of secondary immunodeficiency (SID), but some common examples are:

- Blood or bone marrow disorders
- Cancer
- Treatment for cancer - chemotherapy
- Some immunosuppressant medicines used to treat conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, and psoriasis
- Some anti-epileptic drugs
- Poor nutrition
- An aging immune system
- Rare, inherited medical problems, such as transcobalamin deficiency (a disorder affecting the transport of vitamin B12) and gut lymphangiectasia (loss of proteins in urine and stool).