

Fundamental of Nursing

Lec:2

Asepsis and Infection Control

Instructor:

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1. Definition of term

- Asepsis is the absence of disease-causing microorganisms.
- Infection control is the practice of preventing the spread of infection.

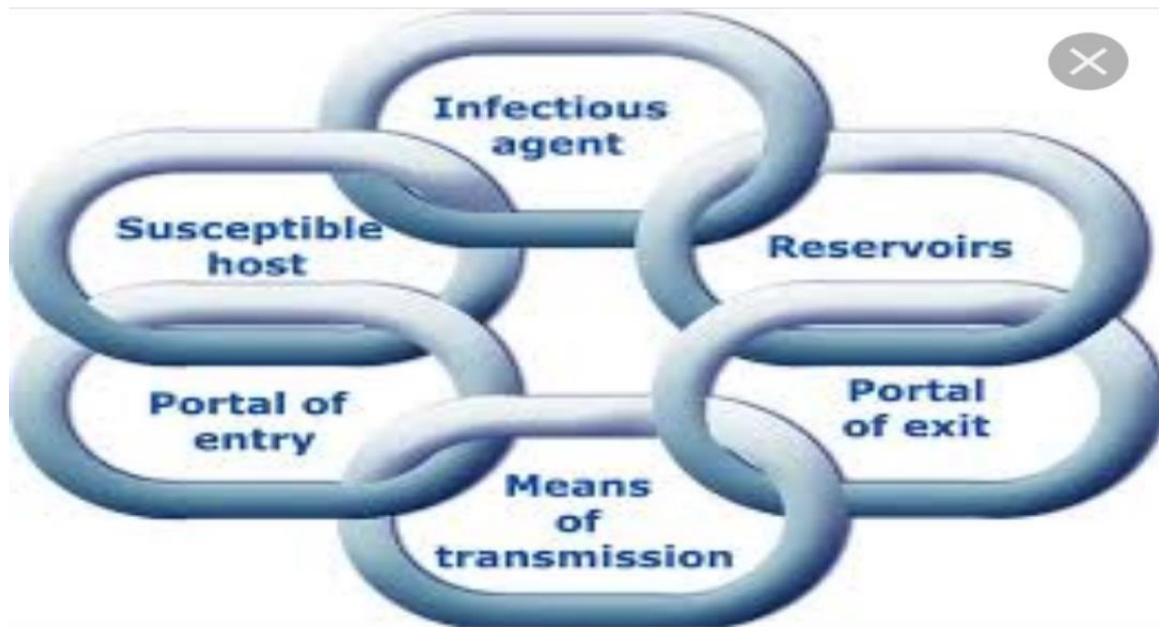
2. Types of microorganisms causing infection

- Bacteria
- Viruses
- Fungi
- Protozoa
- Helminths

3. Types of infection

- Local infection: An infection that is confined to a specific area of the body.
- Systemic infection: An infection that affects the entire body.
- Acute infection: An infection that develops rapidly and lasts for a short time.
- Chronic infection: An infection that develops slowly and lasts for a long time.

4. Chain of infection



The chain of infection is a model that shows how infections spread. It consists of six elements:

- **Infectious agent:** The pathogen that causes the infection.
- **Reservoir:** The place where the pathogen lives and multiplies.
- **Portal of exit:** The way the pathogen leaves the reservoir.
- **Mode of transmission:** The way the pathogen is transmitted from the reservoir to the host.
- **Portal of entry:** The way the pathogen enters the host.
- **Susceptible host:** A person who is at risk of developing an infection.

5. Body defense against infection

The body has several defenses against infection, including:

- **Physical barriers:** The skin and mucous membranes.
- **Chemical barriers:** The tears, saliva, and stomach acid.
- **Cellular defenses:** The white blood cells.

6. Factors increasing susceptibility to infection

Several factors can increase a person's susceptibility to infection, including:

- Age
- Poor nutrition
- Chronic illness
- Immunosuppression

7. Infection control for health care workers

Health care workers must follow strict infection control procedures to prevent the spread of infection. These procedures include:

- Hand hygiene
- Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces
- Isolating patients with infectious diseases

8. Role of the infection control nurse

The infection control nurse is responsible for developing and implementing infection control policies and procedures. They also educate staff about infection control and monitor for outbreaks of infection.