

# Natural Help 4...

## Immune Deficiency



### What is Immune Deficiency?

The immune system **enables the body to fight off illness and infection** on a daily basis. While we are usually unaware of it, we are constantly surrounded by a multitude of viruses, bacteria, microbes, parasites, and toxins that pose a potential threat to our health. If it were not for the immune system, these germs and foreign cells would have the upper hand.

Like most other important body systems, the immune system goes about its important job without any thought and effort on our part. It is usually only when things go wrong that we realize just how **essential the immune system is**.

Varying in degrees of severity, [immune deficiency](#) can be thought of as a condition where **the body's defense system is compromised**, causing it to be less resilient to foreign invading cells. Abnormal cells which develop inside the body systems may also multiply and cause illness if the immune system is compromised.

### What Causes Immune Deficiency?

[Immune deficiency](#) may occur for any number of reasons. Whatever the cause, people who have a compromised or weakened immune system **tend to be more inclined to catching the flu, colds, or infections** that they would normally be resistant to.

### Possible Causes of Immune Deficiency

- The after-effects of previous illness or infection
- The consequences of an unbalanced lifestyle that does not sufficiently support immune system functioning
- The effects of medication
- The result of a number of serious medical conditions known as immunodeficiency disorders

### Common Causes of Immune Deficiency

#### After-Effects of Previous Illness, Infection, or Injury

One of the **common reasons for lowered immune functioning** is illness or infection. Once your body has been under attack from any sort of illness, the immune system takes some time to fully recover. This can often set up a vicious cycle – though you are beginning to feel better, your immune system is still weakened, thus your body is still vulnerable to another invasion. If you get sick again before the immune system has fully recovered, the illness usually hits harder

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and recovery takes longer.

**Certain illnesses have also been known to weaken the immune system** such as chicken pox, measles, tuberculosis, chronic hepatitis, and certain types of cancer.

Injuries such as burn trauma or surgery also tend to lower the immune system's first line of defense (the skin and protective membranes), as the body has to split much of its energy and resources between healing and fighting off infections.

## Effects of an Unbalanced Lifestyle:

- **Poor Diet:** Malnutrition and an unbalanced diet are leading causes of a lowered immune system. Research has shown that poor nutrition compromises the lymphatic system, making the body more vulnerable to infection and disease. By ensuring that you eat a **wholesome, nutritious diet** rich in fresh fruits, and vegetables, whole-grains, legumes and natural oils, you can help strengthen natural immune responses. Also try to avoid excess amounts of “bad foods” such as sugars, animal fats, and highly refined foods, as they tend to weaken the immune system.
- **Stress:** Many studies have shown that **stress has a remarkably powerful effect on the immune system**. Short term time-limited stresses such as public speaking or a momentary fright tend to temporarily boost the immune system, preparing the body for a potential threat, and giving it that extra boost it may need. However, prolonged stress tends to have the opposite effect and has been shown to significantly suppress the immune system.
- **Not enough sleep:** Too little sleep or poor quality sleep weakens the immune system, leaving the body more susceptible to other diseases and disorders. While it is not fully understood, **people who suffer from sleep disturbances tend to have weaker immune functioning** than those who get between 7 and 8 hours of sleep each night.
- **Poor hygiene habits:** Simple hygiene habits such as **washing hands regularly** and keeping a **clean living environment** go a long way in helping the immune system protect us from potentially hazardous organisms.

## Effects of Certain Medication:

Some medications, particularly **immunosuppressant medications** such as corticosteroids or medications used after organ transplants (to reduce the chances of the immune system rejecting the new and “foreign” organ), have an adverse effect on the immune system. While suppressing the immune system is the purpose of these medications, it leaves the body open to all sorts of other infections and illnesses.

**Chemotherapy also often reduces the body's defenses** for some months, both during and after treatment. This is due to the fact that chemotherapy reduces the white blood cell count, which is an essential element of the immune system.

**Regular use of antibiotics may also contribute to a weakened immune**



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## Michele Carelse, Clinical Psychologist



All of our natural remedies are formulated by our expert team of herbalists, naturopaths and homeopaths, and headed by Michele Carelse.

Michele has had years of experience in the manufacturing and use of natural remedies. In addition, she is a trained Clinical Psychologist and has been incorporating natural remedies into her treatment of patients with depression, anxiety, ADD, ADHD and stress for many years with spectacular results.

**system** – due to the drugs themselves, and because they do not afford the immune system an opportunity to deal with the invading organisms and thus strengthen itself.

## Serious Medical Conditions:

There is a group of **immune-related disorders** known as immunodeficiency disorders. This is where the immune system response is severely reduced or absent altogether. These disorders can be divided into two categories – *Primary* (also known as congenital) immunodeficiency disorders which are rare genetic defects that an individual is born with or pre-disposed to, or *acquired* immunodeficiency disorders, which are caused by external causes such as illness, malnutrition, or injury. Some examples of immunodeficiency disorders include:

- HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)
- X-linked agammaglobulinemia
- Selective IgA deficiency
- Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome
- Chronic granulomatous disease
- Leukocyte adhesion defects
- Bruton disease
- Combined immunodeficiency disease

As illustrated, the immune system has an essential role to play, and sometimes it needs some assistance. By supporting and enriching the immune system, we take a vital step in building resistance to disease and reducing susceptibility to colds, viruses, and cancer. There are a number of ways to boost the immune system and provide [immune deficiency treatment](#) alternatives. For example, boosting the system through practicing a healthy lifestyle, exercise, diet, good sleep habits, and the regular use of natural remedies all help to maintain optimum functioning.

## Help for Immune Deficiency

[Immune deficiency treatment](#) often **depends largely on the cause** as diagnosed by a medical professional. For serious immune system diseases such as HIV, drug treatment will almost always be necessary.

If other causes such as dietary or lifestyle-related factors are determined to be at fault, treatment will involve a serious restructuring of eating and living habits, aimed at righting the causes of the immune system problem.

Therefore it is very **important to see a specialist** to have your [immune deficiency](#) diagnosed properly. Try to provide as much background information on your condition as possible so that your doctor can better understand your condition. Blood tests will also likely be required to determine if your condition is the result of an autoimmune disease.

## Natural Herbal and Homeopathic Remedies for the Immune System

Certain herbal and homeopathic remedies have been used as support for immune

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deficiency treatment for thousands of years, with great effect. Herbs such as *Echinacea purpurea*, *Astragalus membranaceus*, *Inula helenium* and *Withania somnifera* are well-documented for their antiviral, anti-fungal, and antibacterial properties, as well as their ability to strengthen and assist the immune system. These herbs have a tonic effect for the immune system and are often taken to prevent illness and assist recovery. Remember that therapeutic dosage is important when using herbal medicines – so ensure that you source them from a reputable company.

## The Natural Approach

While Western medicine has become the norm in many cultures, it is not the only treatment option. Conventional western medicine, often called allopathic medicine, is the system of medicine taught at most medical schools and most pharmaceutical and synthetic medicines are manufactured and marketed according to the principles of allopathic medicine. Allopathic medicine is also sometimes called orthodox medicine.

Because most of us in the Western world have grown up in a society in which allopathic medicine is the prevailing norm, we forget that, only a few decades ago, homeopathic, herbal and other natural medicines were commonly available – and freely used even by conventional doctors. While there are often heated debates about which system of medicine is ‘better’ than the other, many responsible doctors (whether they are allopathic or not) recognize that both have a role to play in the treatment program.

Natural medicine has often been frowned on by conventional doctors, especially by those who did not have sufficient knowledge of these medicines. However, it is encouraging to note that some medical schools are now beginning to re-introduce it into their course work, thereby providing doctors with a wider range of treatment options from which to choose. In many countries, especially in Europe, India and China, natural and homeopathic medicines are commonly prescribed by conventional doctors and represent a significant part of the total annual drug sales.

Naturopathy is a branch of medicine (just as allopathy is a branch of medicine) which operates according to the underlying philosophy that the body has an innate capacity to heal itself. While natural medicines are often called ‘alternative’ or ‘complimentary’ medicines, they are, in fact, a unique and independent form of medicine in their own right, well able to treat a variety of conditions. Perhaps the term ‘holistic’ medicine is more apt, given the broad range of treatment options and approaches which are to be found within the practice of natural medicine, which encompasses many different disciplines, including herbalism, homeopathy, iridology, osteopathy, chiropractic, therapeutic massage techniques, aromatherapy, acupuncture and many, many more.

Most naturopaths will use a variety of treatment modalities in order to treat their patients in a holistic way to support health, relieve symptoms and prevent future disease. In fact, even the World Health Organization defines health as being "... more than simply the absence of illness. It is the active state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being." This is a wonderfully clear description of holistic or natural medicine, which strives to support health (thereby relieving or preventing symptoms), rather than simply eliminating disease.

Although allopathic medicine certainly has a role to play and has made a



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tremendous contribution to medical science during the past century, there is a growing perception that it is not the only answer and that, in many cases, holistic medicine can accomplish just as much, if not more – without the risk of side effects, addiction and sacrifice to health so commonly associated with pharmaceutical drugs. Contrary to common perception, and provided that they are manufactured in the correct way, natural medicines can work quickly and safely to promote healing.

In many cases, they can succeed where pharmaceutical drugs have failed. Despite frequent reports that they are ‘unproven’ and ‘untested’, the opposite is true. Natural medicines have a long history of usage and there is a wealth of empirical evidence to support their effectiveness and safety. In addition, active clinical research is carried out by many academic hospitals and universities to support the extensive traditional and empirical evidence behind natural medicines.

It is also important to know that, like any medicine, herbal and homeopathic medicines must be manufactured in the correct way, following acceptable procedures and manufacturing methods to ensure maximum effectiveness and safety. Due to the recent rise in popularity of natural remedies, many companies have sprung up to take advantage of the market. Unfortunately not all of them are equipped to manufacture to the correct standards, often resulting in a flood of inferior (and sometimes even unsafe) remedies onto the market –giving natural remedies a bad name.

Even some pharmaceutical companies have rushed to claim their market share by producing so-called ‘standardized’ extracts of herbs and offering these as superior to the tried and tested methods of naturopathic manufacturing. Nothing could be further from the truth. While ‘standardized’ extracts may offer benefit of easy consistency of dosage (and cheaper more efficient production lines), they have grave disadvantages. These include an increase in side effects as the medicines produced in this manner lose the natural protective properties of the herbs. In some cases, these side effects have proved fatal – as was seen in the liver toxicity associated with standardized extracts of kava kava, a herb previously safely used for generations without any known side effects.

Most naturopaths recommend what is called the Full Spectrum Method of extraction – which retains the benefits of ALL the active ingredients within the herb as opposed to isolating only one – thereby providing a more complete treatment as well as superior protection against side effects.

Whatever your choice, always choose wisely. Research what is best for you. If you have a chronic or life threatening condition, don’t make changes without first discussing them with your doctor in order that your condition may be monitored. Well informed and supportive practitioners will support patients who want to take responsibility for their own health.

## **Related Natural Remedies:**

**Immunity Plus™** : For full immune system support for adults and teens

ImmunityPlus is a 100% safe, non-addictive natural herbal remedy formulated to safely maintain the **health and systemic balance of the immune system**, without harmful side effects and stimulants.

## **Six Good Reasons to choose Native Remedies as your trusted suppliers of herbal & homeopathic remedies:**

1) All Native Remedies products are manufactured according to the highest pharmaceutical standards - using only the best quality raw ingredients from nature's medicine chest.

2) Native Remedies and our suppliers are registered with the FDA as accredited suppliers and manufacturers of health supplements. Our products are sold all over the world and are manufactured to strict international standards in a GMP accredited manufacturing plant.

3) All our remedies are manufactured in an FDA registered pharmaceutical facility under close supervision.

This includes formulation, acquiring and testing of raw ingredients as well as final manufacturing. This gives us the confidence to say that when you are buying a Native Remedies product, you are buying the safest and the best! We know what goes into our remedies - which is why we know what you will get out of them!

4) Manufacturing is done strictly according to the principles of GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) and all raw ingredients undergo stringent testing before being approved by our registered manufacturing pharmacists.

5) We offer a free email [Ask Our Experts](#) service run by trained consultants ready to advise you on the best choice for your health.

6) We offer an unconditional [One Year Money Back Guarantee](#).

ImmunityPlus contains a selection of herbs known for their supportive function in maintaining immune system health and well-being. It supports the healthy functioning of the immune system, thereby helping to maintain the **natural defense against pathogens** and optimum performance.

As we grow older, we sometimes begin to notice that our immune systems are not as good as they used to be. ImmunityPlus can especially benefit those individuals needing to support routine immune strength to guard against common conditions associated with the maturing of cells.

ImmunityPlus can be used consistently, without compromising health and **not causing serious side effects**, to help maintain the body's natural ability to fight viral and bacterial infections-- while also supporting healthy convalescence.

The formula remains true to the **whole spectrum method** of herbal extraction, ensuring the bioavailability and balance of all the active ingredients contained in the remedy. This method of manufacture also significantly reduces the likelihood of side effects and maintains all active ingredients in perfect balance – exactly as nature intended!

[Learn more about Immunity Plus](#)

**Kiddie Boost™** : Support healthy immune functioning in children.

KiddieBoost is a 100% safe and natural formula containing carefully selected herbal ingredients known for their **tonic effects on the immune system**, as well as their high safety profile in children's remedies, compared to possibly harsh antibiotic side effects in children.

When children attend school, daycare, or preschool, they are particularly prone to picking up viruses and bugs. To help protect their immune systems, KiddieBoost has been specifically formulated to **strengthen child's immune system** from the age of 12 months. KiddieBoost comes in a convenient drop formula that is easy to administer to children.

KiddieBoost is developed with care by our team of specialists, is 100% natural, and manufactured according to the highest pharmaceutical standards using the **whole spectrum method** of herbal extraction.

This method ensures the bioavailability and balance of all the active ingredients contained in the remedy. This method of manufacture also significantly **reduces the likelihood of side effects** and maintains all active ingredients in perfect balance – exactly as nature intended!

[Learn more about Kiddie Boost](#)

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