Primary sources


Why is DIARRHEA dangerous?

When diarrhea kills, dehydration is to blame. Excessive loss of water can impact organ function and quickly become fatal. But how does diarrhea become so dangerous? Follow DefeatDD on a journey through the body to trace the causes and consequences of severe dehydration due to diarrhea.

**Enterotoxigenic E. coli (ETEC)**

1. **Pathogen, like ETEC, enters a child's body through:**
   - Transmission from hands to mouth.
   - Ingestion of contaminated food.
   - Ingestion of unsafe water.

2. **When diarrhea kills, dehydration is to blame.** Excessive loss of water can impact organ function and quickly become fatal. But how does diarrhea become so dangerous? Follow DefeatDD on a journey through the body to trace the causes and consequences of severe dehydration due to diarrhea.

3. **Enterotoxigenic E. coli (ETEC)**

4. **Transmission from hands to mouth.**

5. **Ingestion of contaminated food.**

6. **Ingestion of unsafe water.**

7. **When diarrhea kills, dehydration is to blame.**

8. **Excessive loss of water can impact organ function and quickly become fatal.**

9. **But diarrhea—and deadly dehydration—are preventable.**

10. **Safe water, sanitation, and hygiene reduce exposure to diarrhea pathogens.**

11. **Breastfeeding and optimal nutrition strengthen the immune system.**

12. **Zinc treatment reduces the length of a diarrhea episode and prevents future illness.**

13. **Rotavirus vaccines prevent infection from the deadliest cause of childhood diarrhea.**

14. **Let’s follow the infection pathway of one of these pathogens:**

   **Enterotoxigenic E. coli (ETEC)**

   **Shigellosis**

   **Rotavirus**

15. **Safe water, sanitation, and hygiene reduce exposure to diarrhea pathogens.**

16. **Breastfeeding and optimal nutrition strengthen the immune system.**

17. **Zinc treatment reduces the length of a diarrhea episode and prevents future illness.**

18. **Rotavirus vaccines prevent infection from the deadliest cause of childhood diarrhea.**

19. **Oral rehydration solution (ORS) helps rebalance salt, sugar, and water in the body to speed rehydration and recovery.**

20. **Through an integrated approach, we can achieve the greatest impact to defeat diarrheal disease.**

Learn more at DefeatDD.org

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