

Immune System Issues in 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome

Our **immune system** defends our bodies from bacteria, viruses, cancer cells, and toxins. To do this job properly, it must be able to identify invaders and tell them apart from cells of our own bodies.

When the immune system does not work well, these problems may occur:

- **Immunodeficiency** – the system is too weak to battle invaders
- **Hypersensitivity / allergies** – the system reacts to harmless things
- **Autoimmunity** – the system reacts to the host’s own body
- **Chronic inflammation** – the system cannot clear the pathogens even after a long time

The “Immune System Series” provides explanations on the common problems in individuals with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome (22q11.2DS). The **[Health Conditions Explained](#)** page on our website contains all the info sheets listed below.

Common Immune System Issues in 22q11.2DS

Issues:	See our info sheet on:
Recurrent infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immune deficiencies related to T cells • Immune deficiencies related to B cells
T cell lymphopenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immune deficiencies related to T cells
Immunoglobulins / antibodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immune deficiencies related to B cells
Poor vaccine responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination
Allergies / Asthma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergies and Asthma
Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP); also called idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autoimmune Disorders
Autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AHA)	
Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)	
Vitiligo	
Graves Disease	
Celiac Disease	
Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autoimmune Issues in the GI System (Part of the Gastrointestinal Series)
Autoimmune Enteropathy/Enteritis	

Caution

Problems related to the immune system are common among individuals with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome (22q11.2DS), but people are affected in different ways. Please check with your immunologist about the best way to manage immune system issues for you or your loved ones.

Individuals evaluated at a **22q Clinical Center of Excellence** ([USA](#) or [International](#)) will be more likely to have providers who are experienced in assessing and treating conditions that are related to the 22q11.2 deletion.

Resource

Updated clinical practice recommendations for managing [\[children | adults\]](#) with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome – 2023

[Chromosome 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and DiGeorge syndrome – 2019](#)

Remember to check out our info sheet on [The Immune System](#)