Immune deficiency disorders

Immunology Unit
Department of Pathology
College of Medicine
KSU

Lecture # 6/6
Foundation Block

Lecture Objectives

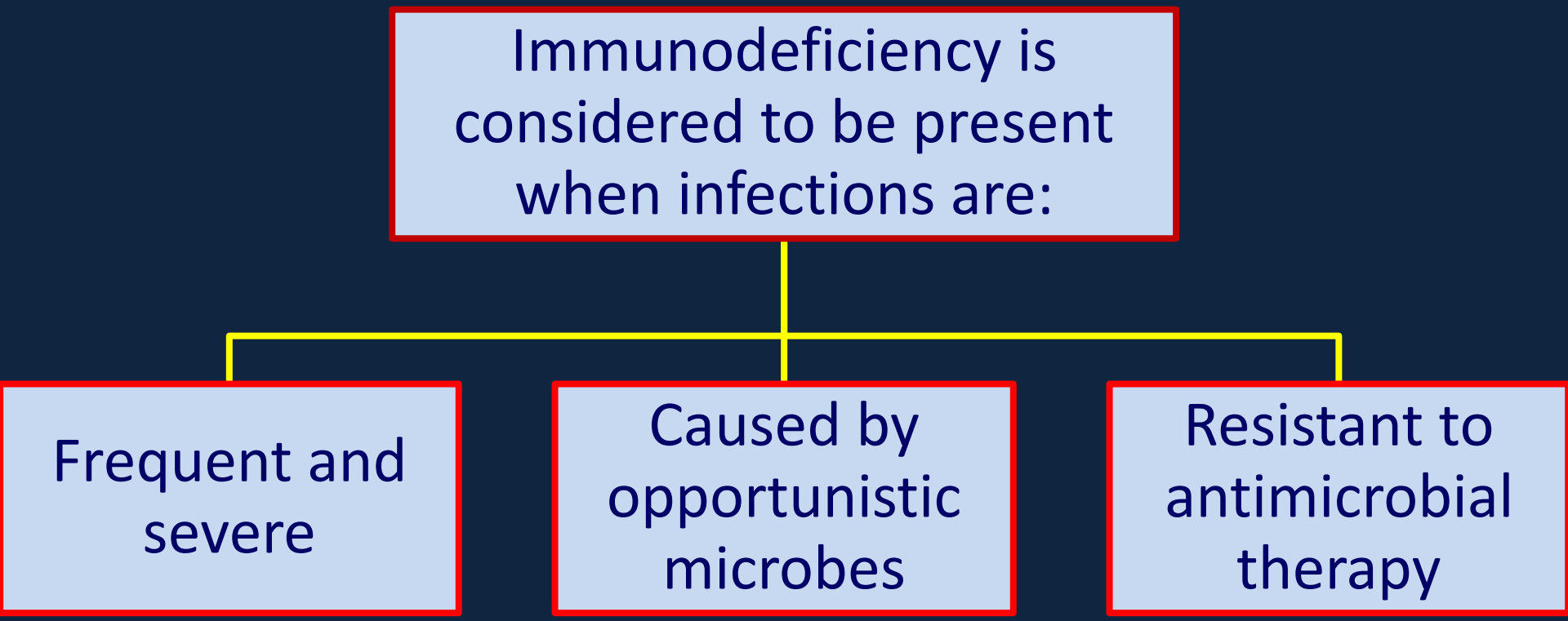
- Identify that Immunodeficiency is due to a defect in the immune function.
- Describe the classification of Immunodeficiency.
- Explain the presentations of different types of Immuno-deficiencies (e.g. recurrent infections).
- Understand the varieties of immune system deficiencies involving defects in :
  - T cells, B cells, phagocytes and complement.
- Know the laboratory investigations for immunodeficiency disorders

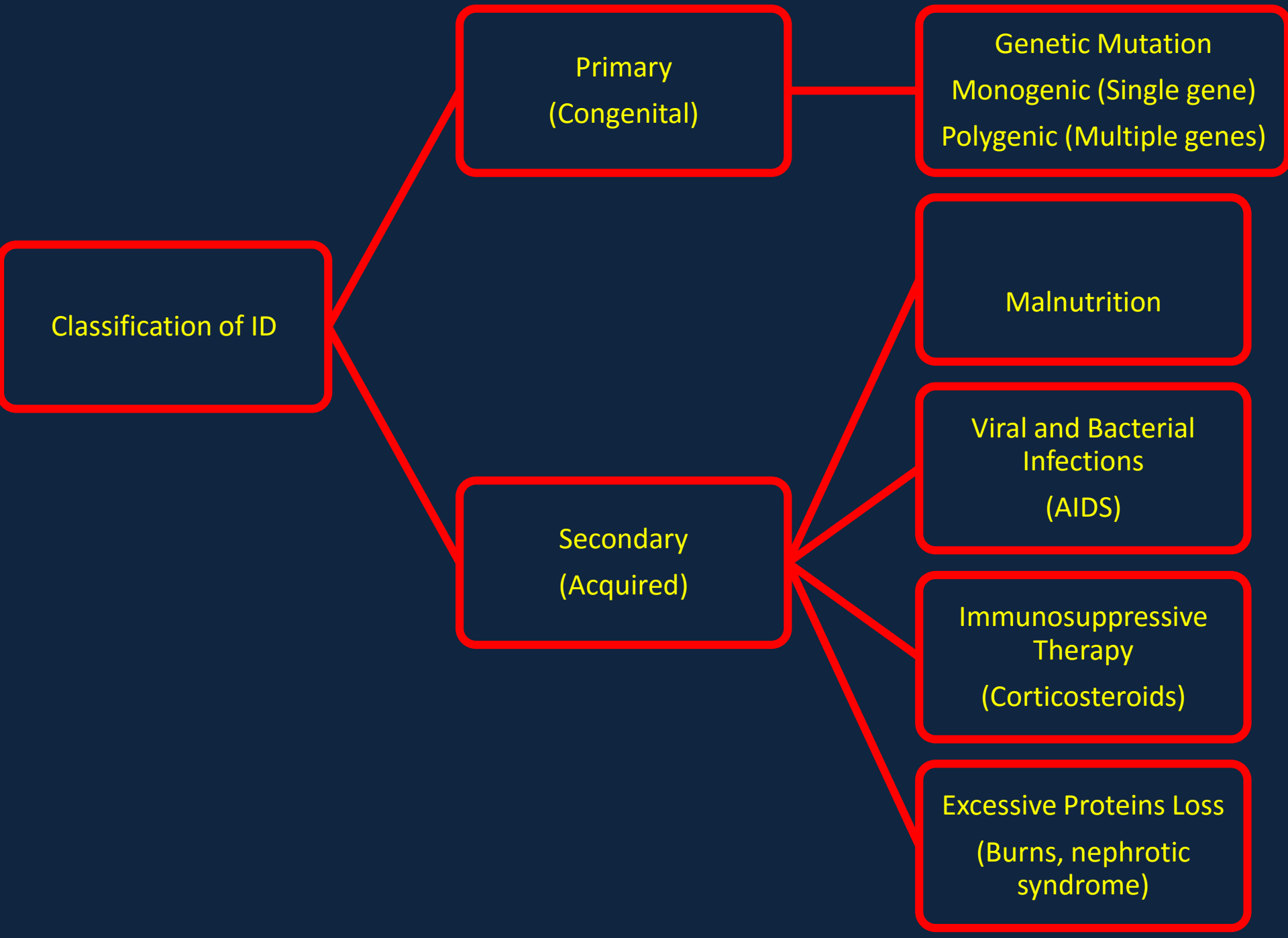
Definition

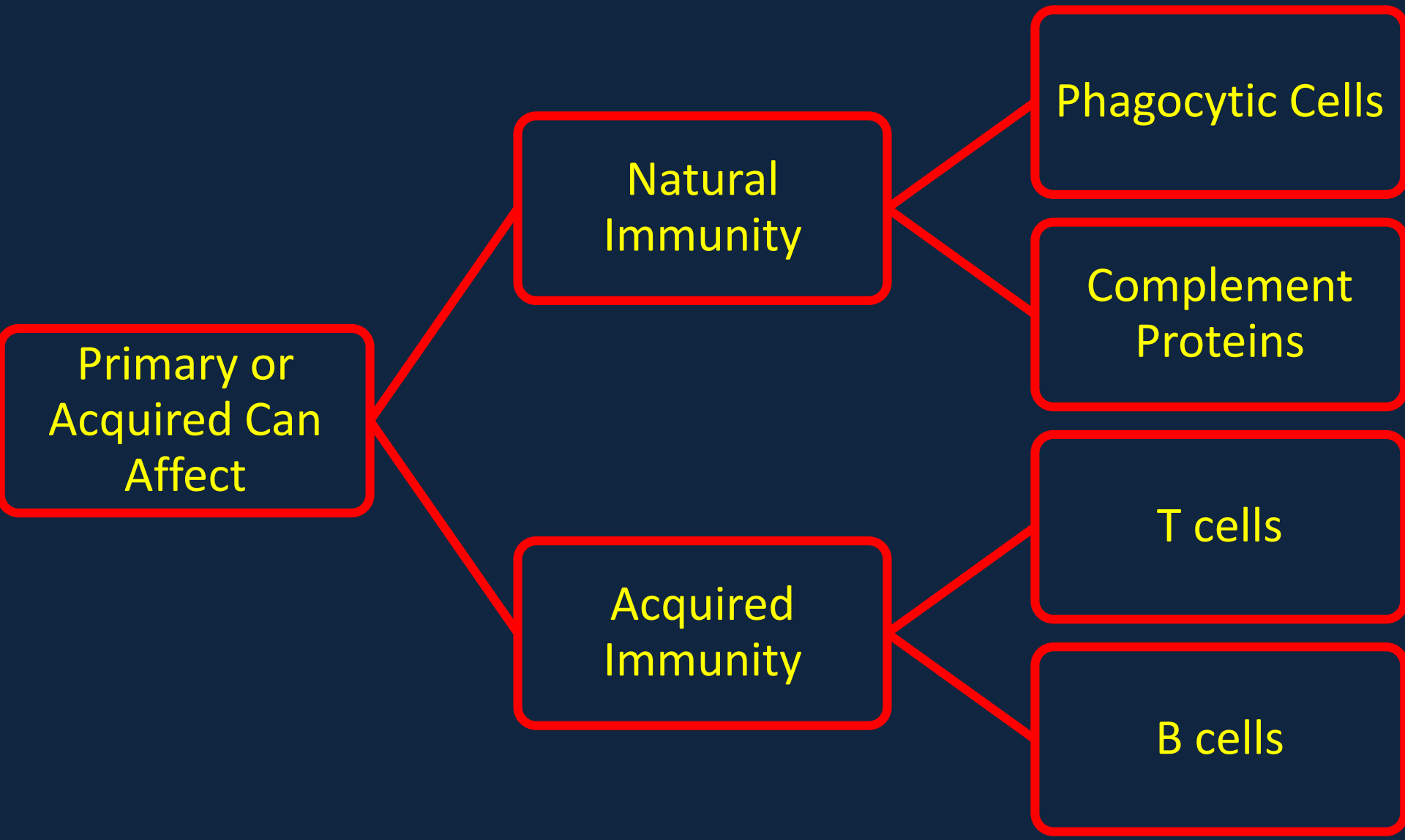
- A state in which the ability of the immune system to fight infectious disease is compromised or entirely absent

A person who has an immunodeficiency is said to be immuno-compromised

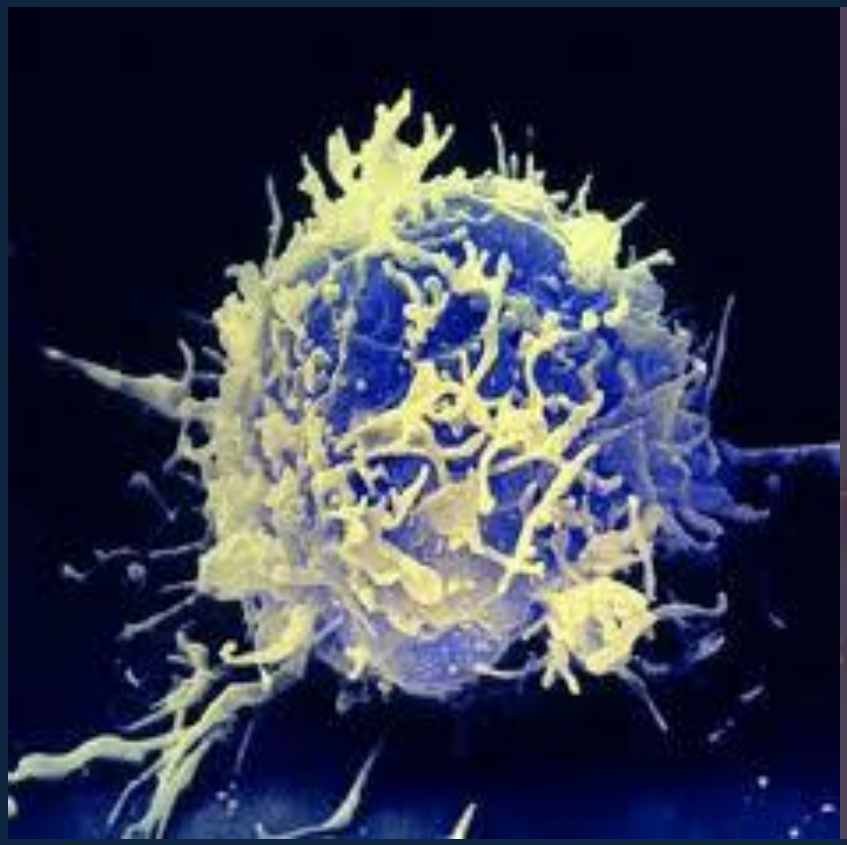

A boy with congenital ID lived in a bubble for 12 years before he died

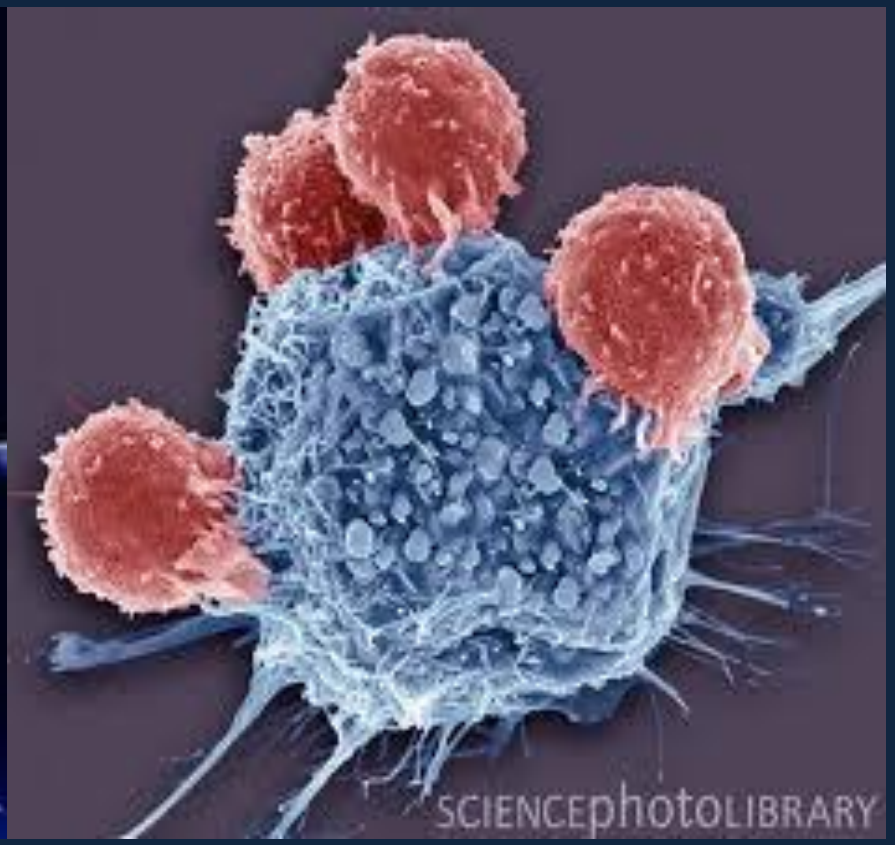

Immunodeficiency is considered to be present when infections are:
Frequent and severe
Caused by opportunistic microbes
Resistant to antimicrobial therapy


Classification of ID
Primary
(Congenital)
Genetic Mutation
Monogenic (Single gene)
Polygenic (Multiple genes)
Secondary
(Acquired)
Malnutrition
Viral and Bacterial Infections
(AIDS)
Immunosuppressive Therapy
(Corticosteroids)
Excessive Proteins Loss
(Burns, nephrotic syndrome)

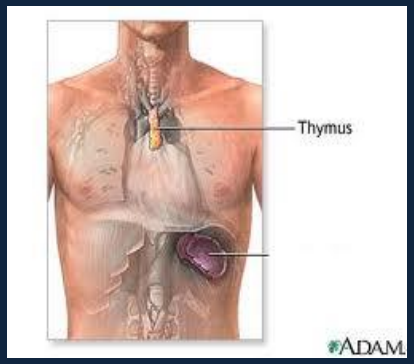

Primary or Acquired Can Affect
Natural Immunity
Acquired Immunity
Phagocytic Cells
Complement Proteins
T cells
B cells

T-cell defects





DiGeorge Syndrome (Congenital Thymic Aplasia)



A congenital defect that is marked by:

- Absence or underdevelopment of the Thymus gland (hypoplasia)

- Hypoparathyroidism

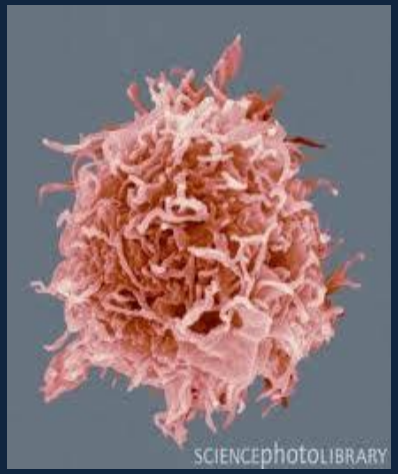
- Cardiovascular abnormalities

Features of DiGeorge syndrome

- Children may present with tetany
- Extreme susceptibility to viral protozoal, and fungal infections
- Profound depression of T-cell numbers
- Absence of T-cell responses

Management of DiGeorge syndrome

Fetal thymus tissue graft
(14 weeks old)



B-cell defects

(Gammaglobulinaemias)

Patients with B-cell defects are subject to:

Recurrent bacterial infections

but

Display normal immunity to most viral and fungal infections

Why ???

Diverse spectrum ranging from:

- Complete absence of B-cells
- Complete absence of plasma cells
- Low or absent immunoglobulins
- Selective absence of certain immunoglobulins

-X-linked disease:

Females : carriers (normal)

Males : manifest the disease

X-linked agammaglobulinaemia (XLA) or Bruton's hypogammaglobulinaemia (Congenital disease)

The most common type, 80 to 90 percent

Defect in Bruton Tyrosine Kinase (BTK)

The defect involves a block in maturation of pre-B- cells to mature B-cells in bone marrow

Features of XLA

- Reduced B-cell counts to 0.1 percent (normally 5-15 percent)

- Absence of Immunoglobulins

- Affected children suffer from recurrent pyogenic bacterial infections

Selective immunoglobulin deficiency (Congenital disease)

IgA deficiency (1:700)

Most are asymptomatic: but may have increased incidence of respiratory tract infections (R.T.I)

Some have recurrent R.T.I and gastrointestinal tract symptoms

X- linked hyper-IgM Syndrome (Congenital disease)

Characterized by:

- Markedly elevated IgM
- Low IgG, IgA & IgE

Management of immunoglobulin deficiencies:

*Periodic intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) reduces infectious complications

Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) (Congenital disease)

Causes of SCID:

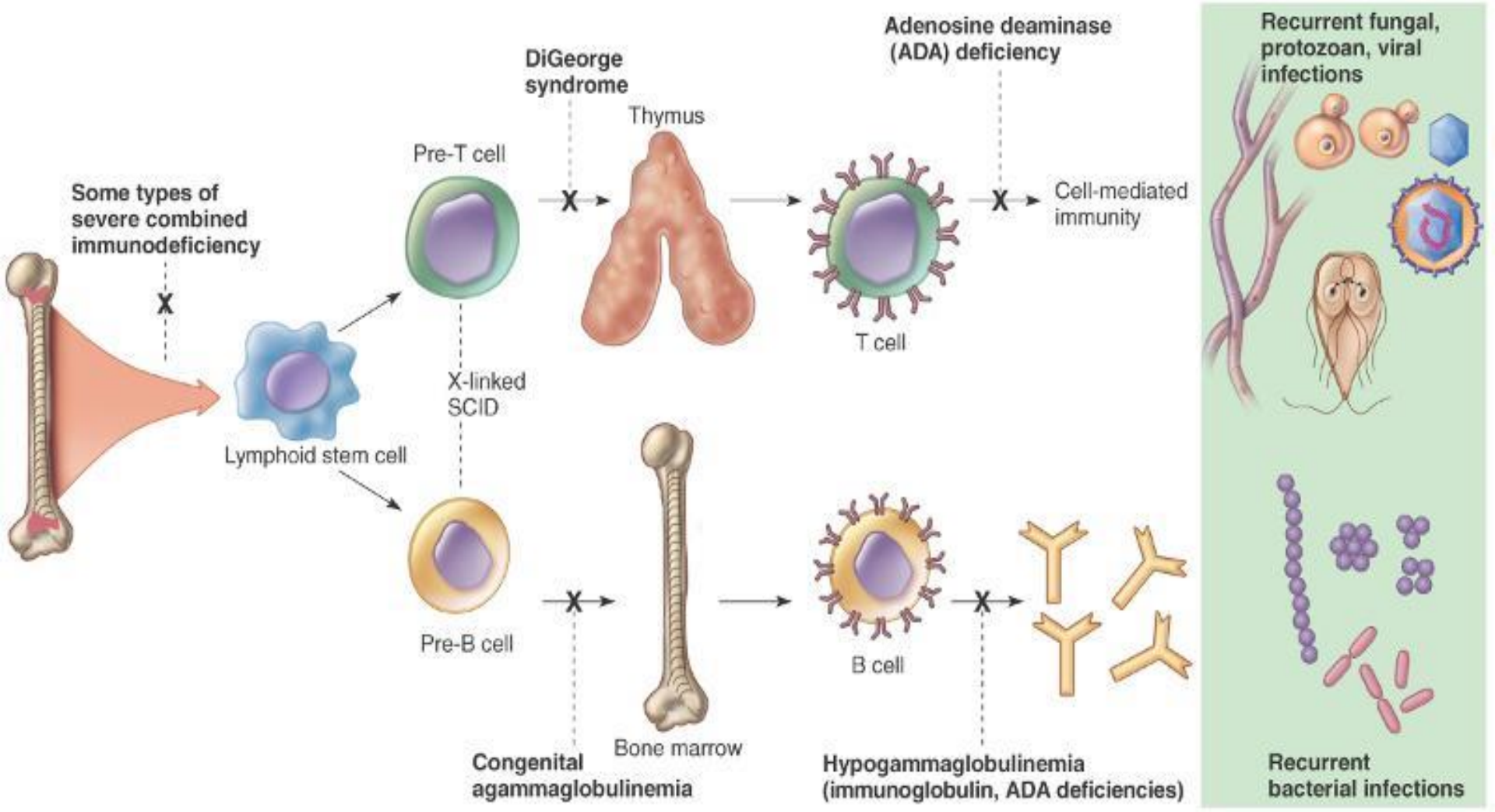
Enzyme deficiencies:

1. ADA (adenosine deaminase) deficiency

2. PNP (purine phosphorylase) deficiency
   Toxic metabolites accumulate in T and B cells

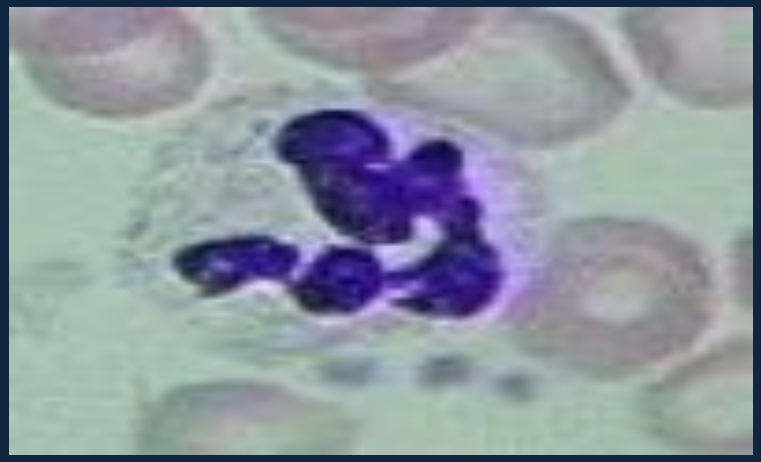
Features of SCID

- Increased susceptibility to :viral, fungal, bacterial protozoal infections (starting at 3 months of age)



Management of SCID

1. Infusion of purified enzymes
2. Gene therapy



Leukocyte defects

- Quantitative
- Qualitative

Quantitative Defects

Congenital agranulocytosis:

Defect in the gene inducing G-CSF (granulocyte colony stimulating factor)

Features:

Pneumonia, otitis media, abscesses

Qualitative Defects (Congenital disease)

A. Defect in chemotaxis

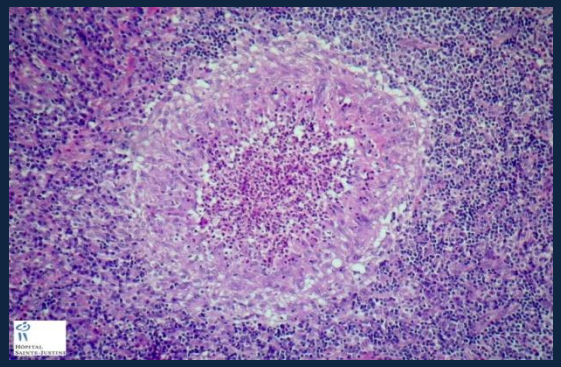
   Leukocyte adhesion deficiency (LAD)

B. Defect in intracellular Killing

   Chronic granulomatous disease:

Defect: in the oxidative complex responsible for producing superoxide radicals

Chronic granulomatous disease (CGD) (Congenital disease)

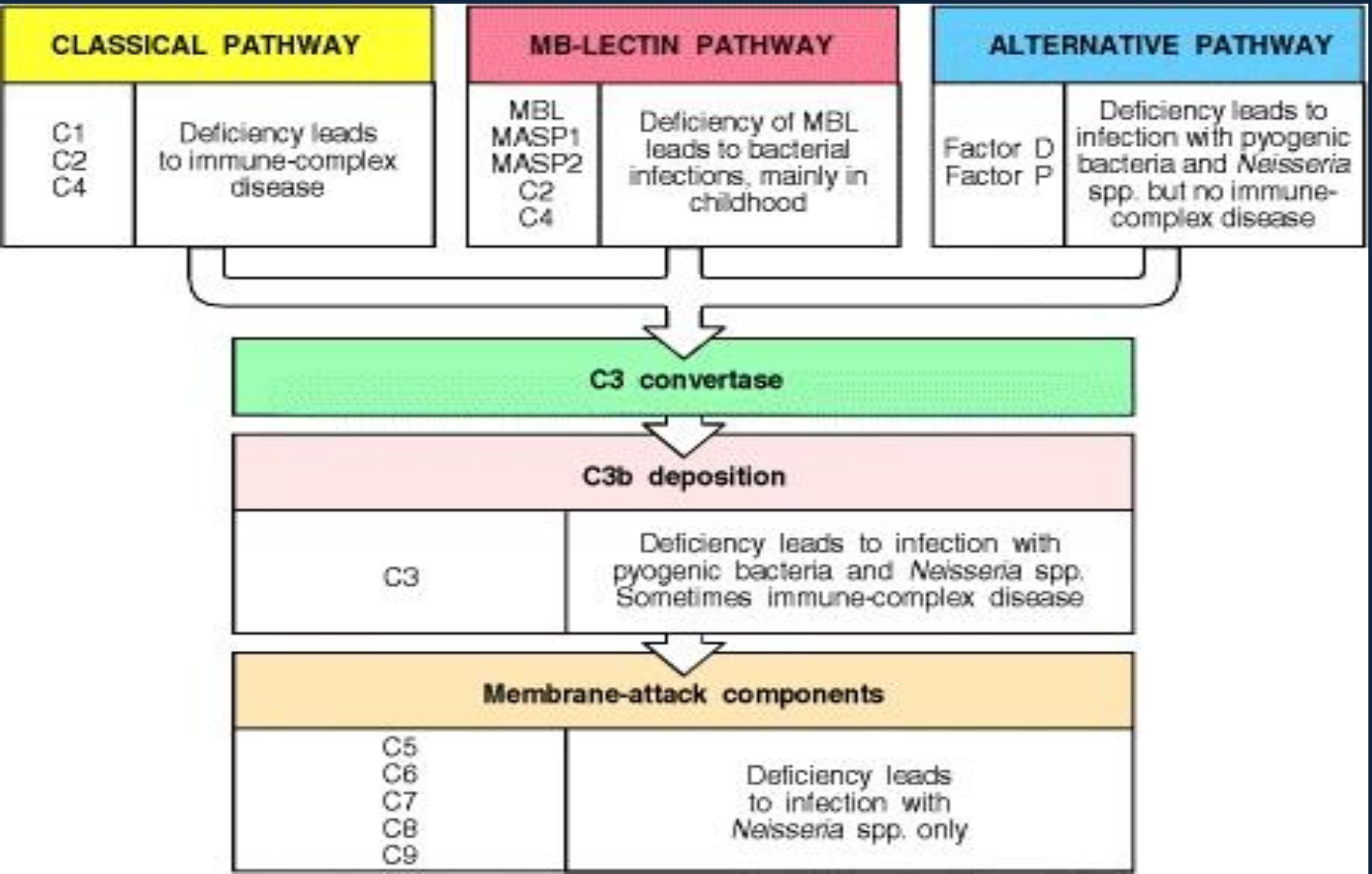


Neutrophils lack the "respiratory burst" upon phagocytosis

- Characterized by recurrent life-threatening bacterial and fungal infections and granuloma formation

Complement Deficiency

Deficiency of all complement components have been described C1-C9



Laboratory diagnosis of ID

1. Complete blood count : total & differential
2. Evaluation of antibody levels and response to antigens
3. T and B cells counts (Flowcytometry)
4. Measurement of complement proteins and function (CH_{50})
5. Assessment of phagocytosis and respiratory burst (oxygen radicals)

Take Home Message

- Immunodeficiency may be congenital or acquired
- It can involve any component of the immune system such as cells, antibodies, complement etc.
- Most common presentation of immunodeficiency is recurrent infections that may be fatal due to delay in diagnosis and lack of appropriate therapy