

Non infectious Diseases

Noninfectious acute conditions e.g., accidents, suicide, stroke

Noninfectious Chronic disease e.g., heart disease, cancer (typically), diabetes. Characterized by latency periods of 10 to 20 or more years

Chronic Disease Epidemiology Terms

Chronic disease epidemiology examines the patterns, causes, and factors influencing chronic diseases in populations, applying this knowledge to prevent and manage health issues.

Latency Period The time when the disease is present but not symptomatic or detected.

Multifactorial etiology Multiple factors that causes diseases e.g socioeconomic, cultural, or political factors

Disability

The reduced ability to function within a set range is referred to by the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health as "disability," a comprehensive term that includes impairments, limitations in activities, and restrictions on participation.

Activity Limitation A challenge an individual may face in carrying out activities.

Participation restriction Any problem an individual may experience in his or her involvement in life situations.

Priorities in Disease Prevention and Control

Motivational Forces for Behavior Change Pain and fear can motivate behavior change, but preventing chronic diseases requires adopting healthy habits long before these factors come into play.

Lifestyle and Behavior Changes Key changes for preventing chronic diseases include reducing tobacco use, limiting alcohol and drug consumption, making dietary improvements, increasing exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, reducing stress, ensuring adequate sleep, practicing safe sex, and following safety measures.

The Environment and Chronic Health Problems

Physical Stresses and Health

Relating to the body, such as excessive heat, cold, and noise; radiation (electromagnetic, ultrasound, microwave, x-irradiation); vehicular collisions; workplace injuries; climate change; ozone depletion; housing; and so on.

Chemical and Healths Several chemicals (e.g., drugs, acids, alkali, heavy metals, poisons, some enzymes) in the environment are capable of causing chronic disease and adverse health conditions

Toxicokinetics The area of study on how a chemical substance enters the body and the course it takes while in the body

Biologic Agents and Health

Biologic agents like viruses and bacteria are commonly linked to acute infectious diseases such as malaria and typhoid fever. However, they can also cause chronic illnesses like tuberculosis, syphilis, polio, and leprosy.

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By yvillatoo
cheatography.com/yvillatoo/

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Chemicals and Health

Lead Lead is a metal present in both manufactured goods and the environment, and it is linked to severe health issues.

Radiation Radiation exposure can be external or internal, with effects depending on the total dose, dose rate, and the area of the body exposed.

People are exposed to radiation through three main pathways: inhalation, ingestion, and direct (external) exposure.

Ionizing radiation is high-energy radiation that can break chemical bonds in atoms and molecules, potentially leading to cancer.

Behavior and Chronic Health Problems

Smoking and Chronic Disease

Health belief Model

It suggests that behavior change occurs through a logical decision-making process, where individuals assess their risk of illness, the severity of its consequences, the effectiveness of a recommended action in reducing risk, and whether the benefits of taking action outweigh the costs or barriers.

Heredity and Chronic Health Problems

Cancer Many health issues have a genetic component. For instance, while most cancer cases arise in individuals without a family history, some families carry cancer susceptibility genes that increase the likelihood of developing the disease.

Epilepsy Two other classifications are idiopathic, which have genetic causes, and cryptogenic, which have non-genetic causes, like head trauma. Epilepsy is the most prevalent neurological disorder, affecting approximately 4% of the U.S. population.

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By **yvillat00**
cheatography.com/yvillat00/

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