

Primary Immune Deficiency

Telephone: +1-817-421-0770



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Primary Immunodeficiency (PI) is a classification of nearly 300 under-recognized, chronic diseases which reduce the body's ability to fight infection. This is due to missing pieces of the immune system, or improper function of the immune system. In many cases, patients will go undiagnosed with PI for many years suffering from frequent, persistent, or severe infections despite single or even multiple rounds of antibiotics. The most common PI-associated infections are recurrent sinus infection, respiratory infection such as bronchitis or pneumonia, gastrointestinal and urinary infection, and infections of the skin. Autoimmune disease and chronic diarrhea are occasionally associated with PI as well.

After completing a thorough medical history, an Immunologist can identify these symptoms and complete the appropriate diagnostic testing. A complete diagnostic work-up typically includes a physical examination, imaging studies, blood work, and possibly vaccination administration.

If a PI diagnosis is confirmed, treatment is indicated on a case by case basis. Common treatment options may include preventative oral antibiotic therapy to reduce the risk for infection, or immune globulin (IG) replacement therapy. IG therapy works to replace or repair the immune system so it is able to do its job effectively, and reduce the risk for infection. IG therapy is infused into the blood (intravenously) or into the fat tissue (subcutaneously). It is infused at regular intervals from once a week to every 4 weeks. Many factors are included in treatment options which is why that decision is always discussed between you and your physician.

5 Star!

Dr Richard Mayse
& all the staff are
exceptional!

— Janice Raver

TRAAC Staff

The staff at Texas
Regional Asthma and
Allergy Center are
standing by to help you!
If you have questions,
need to set appointments

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If you have questions or
comments, please
contact us directly! We
welcome your
suggestions and hope to
make your experience
the best it can be!

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