

Is it just an infection?

You should be suspicious if you have an infection that is...

Severe

requires hospitalization or intravenous antibiotics

Persistent

won't completely clear up or clears very slowly

Unusual

caused by an uncommon organism

Recurrent

keeps coming back

or if it

Runs in the Family

others in your family have had a similar susceptibility to infection

If any of these words describe your infection, the Immune Deficiency Foundation (IDF) recommends that you ask your physician to check for the possibility of a primary immunodeficiency disease. These diseases are caused by genetic defects and can affect anyone, regardless of age or gender. People with primary immunodeficiencies are more susceptible to infections and health problems that lead to serious and debilitating diseases. It is critical to get an early diagnosis and proper medical care.

As the national patient organization dedicated to persons living with primary immunodeficiency diseases, IDF says THINK ZEBRA!

In medical school, many doctors learn the saying, "when you hear hoof beats, think horses, not zebras" and are taught to focus on the likeliest possibilities when making a diagnosis, not the unusual ones. However, sometimes physicians need to look for a zebra. Patients with primary immunodeficiency diseases are the zebras of the medical world.

If you have an infection with any of these characteristics, ask your physician to THINK ZEBRA!

