Common Opportunistic Infections - Living with HIV, part 6

Opportunistic infections, also called OIs, are infections that occur more often in people with weakened immune systems. OIs are a risk for people living with HIV.

OIs tend to occur when CD4 cells, a type of blood cell that fights infection, falls to a very low level. Twenty infections have been identified as the most common OIs in the United States.

They are:
- **Candidiasis of the throat and lungs** - this is a fungal infection
- **Invasive cervical cancer**
- **Coccidioidomycosis** - a fungus that causes lung infection
- **Cryptococcosis** - a fungus that causes infection of the lungs, brain and body
- **Cryptosporidiosis** - a parasite that causes diarrhea
- **Cytomegalovirus** - a virus that can infect many parts of the body
- **HIV Encephalopathy** - a brain disorder that is a result of HIV infection.
- **Herpes simplex** - a common virus that causes severe infection in HIV infected persons
- **Histoplasmosis** - a fungus that causes lung infection
- **Isosporiasis** - a parasite that causes diarrhea and other symptoms
- **Kaposi's sarcoma** - a type of cancer
- **Lymphoma** - cancer of the lymph nodes
- **Tuberculosis** - a bacteria that causes lung infection
- **Mycobacterium avium complex** - a serious bacterial disease
- **Pneumocystis** - a fungus that causes lung infection
- **Repeated Pneumonia** - lung infections caused by many different germs
- **Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy** - a virus that causes brain infection
- **Salmonella** - a bacteria that causes blood infection
- **Toxoplasmosis** - a parasite that causes brain infection
- **HIV Wasting syndrome** - involuntary loss of more than 10% of one’s body weight

Be sure to get answers to any questions you have about HIV/AIDS. Your public health department, health care provider, and public library can help.

Text is from HIV/AIDS sources from the Department of Health and Human Services and adapted by HealthReach and Healthy Roads Media. This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds by the National Library of Medicine award number HHSN27620150001I awarded to the Center for Public Service Communications. Images from iStock.com.

Creation Date: March 2017