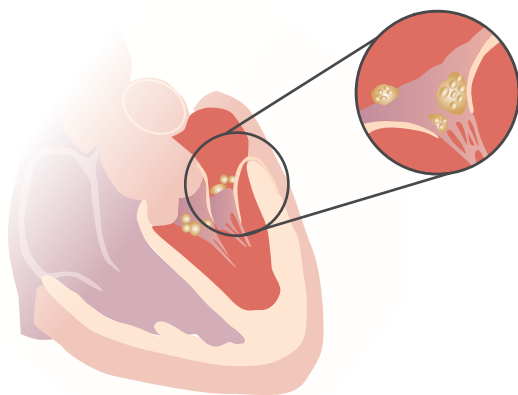


# Infective endocarditis



Infective endocarditis is a rare but serious disease caused by infection of a heart valve or the inner lining of the heart

It can affect anyone, but you are at increased risk if you have:

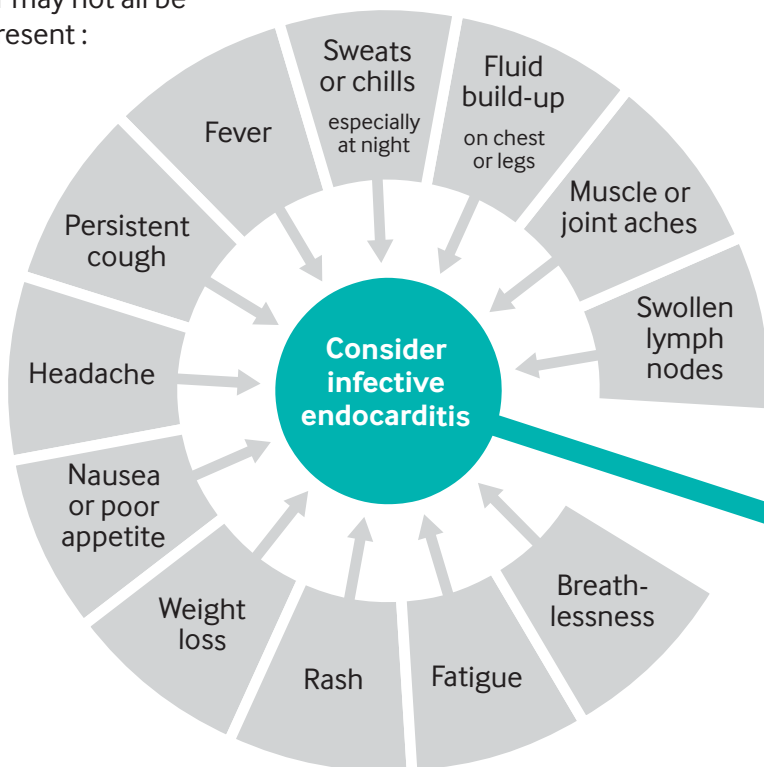
A replacement heart valve

A history of infective endocarditis

Or some types of

Congenital heart disease

These are some common symptoms, which may come and go, or may not all be present :



## Diagnosis

It most commonly presents as a flu-like illness

It is difficult to diagnose because the symptoms are similar to those of other conditions

**SEEK URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION**

Tell the doctor you are worried about infective endocarditis

**Inform him or her about any recent:**

Invasive dental, medical or surgical procedures

Skin wounds

Tattooing or piercing

Intravenous lines

Intravenous drug use