

Niamh Boyle – Sepsis Survivor





Sepsis

The body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection that can lead to tissue damage, organ failure and death.



Not a “typical” Sepsis patient

- **Not elderly**
- **Not immunocompromised**
- **No recent surgery**
- **No diabetes or long term medications**
- **Normal delivery**

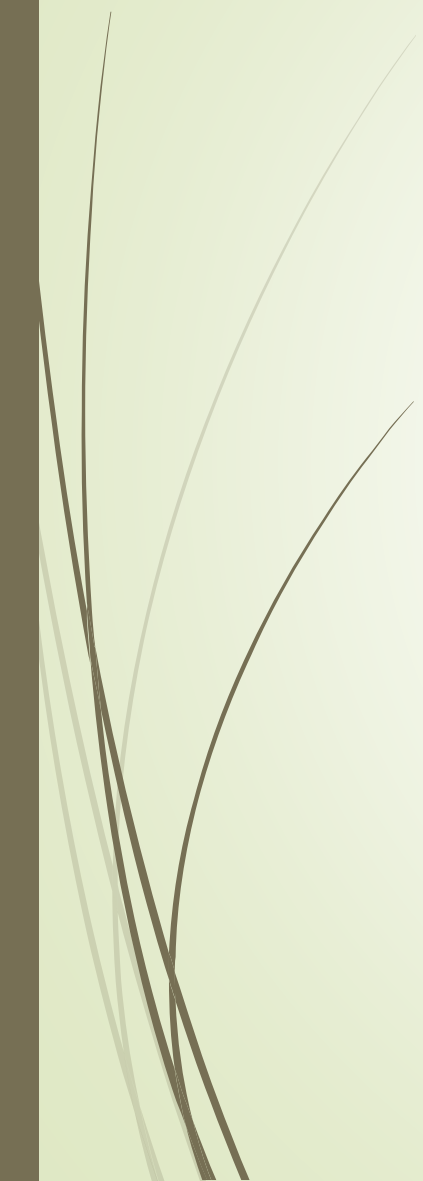


Symptoms of Sepsis

- Abdominal pain/Extreme pain
- High temperature (above 38) or low temperature (under 36)
- High heart rate higher than 90 beats per minute
- Breathing rate higher than 20 breaths per minute
- Probable or confirmed infection
- Changes in mental ability
- Decreased urination
- Low blood pressure



Treating Sepsis

- Antibiotics: Broad spectrum IV antibiotics and specific bacteria targeted antibiotics on receipt of blood test results
 - IV Fluids
 - Oxygen
 - Supportive care: ICU Care, Ventilator
 - Vasopressors: If BP remains too low (constricts blood vessels)
 - Surgery: Remove sources of infection
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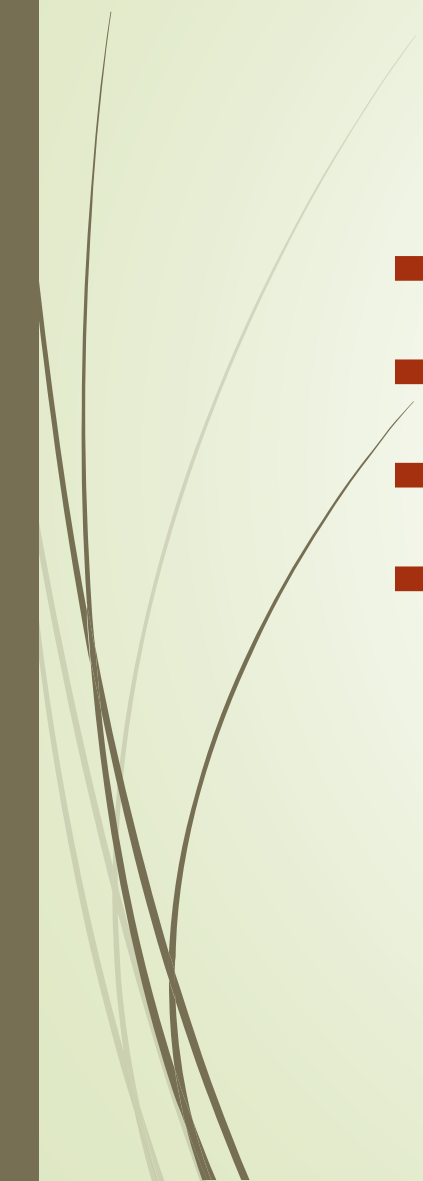


Hospital Recovery From Sepsis

- Being told I had suffered TSS
- Pending amputations
- Psychiatry
- Physiotherapy
- Flash pulmonary edema
- Cardiac investigations: MRI, ECG – cardiomyopathy
- Surgery: Cannula, arterial line, Pain, pain relief, dressing changes
- Discharged

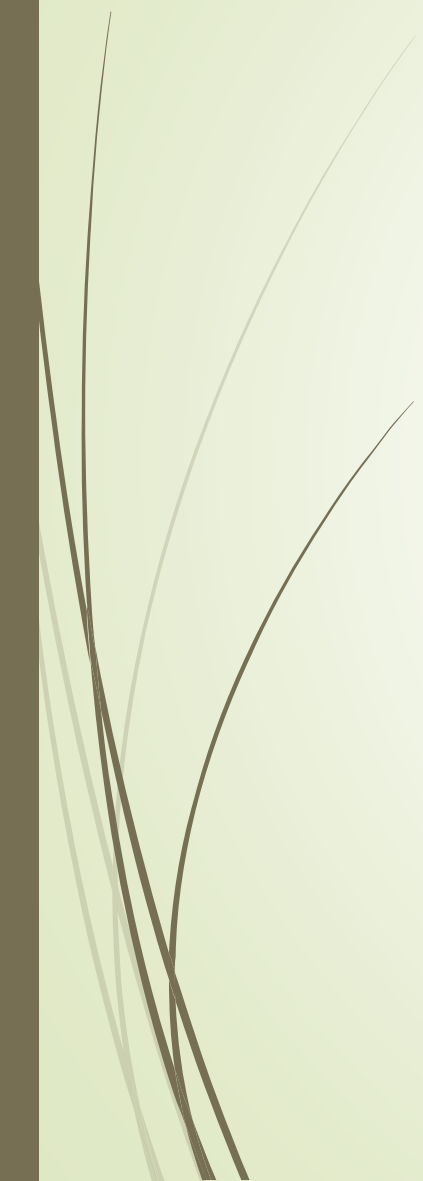


Recovering From Sepsis

- Weekly plastics clinic
 - Physiotherapy
 - Psychological
 - Ridiculous things people say
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Prosthetic Journey

- Only lower limb prosthesis considered medically necessary
 - Amputation level reduced my options
 - Finally found Touch Bionics by Ossur via APOS
 - Fundraising
 - Getting my new hand
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Promoting Sepsis Awareness

- National Sepsis Summit of Ireland
- Irish Radio and TV
- Guest speaker at Nursing & midwifery Colleges of Ireland and hospitals
- Promote prosthetic awareness in hospitals
- Promote equality for upper & lower limb loss
- Campaign for government funding for upper limbs









