

Defense Mechanism	Type of Defense	Type of Immunity	Brief Description	Time of Action	Duration of Response	Importance
Skin	External Structural	Innate	Physical barrier that prevents microorganisms from entering the body.	Before microorganisms enter.	Constant.	Prevents pathogens from entering the body.
Phagocytes	Internal Non-Specific	Innate	Cells that engulf and destroy microorganisms.	During infection.	Rapid and short-lived.	Eliminates foreign agents immediately.
Saliva	External Biochemical	Innate	Contains enzymes and substances that destroy bacteria.	Before microorganisms enter.	Constant.	Reduces the amount of microbes in the mouth.
Memory Lymphocytes	Internal Specific	Acquired	Cells that 'remember' the pathogen to act faster in future infections.	After the infection.	Very durable, even lifelong.	Prevents a disease from developing again.
Inflammatory Reaction	Internal Non-Specific	Innate	Increased blood flow and defenses in a damaged or infected area.	During infection.	Temporary, until the cause disappears.	Facilitates the arrival of defenses and the elimination of pathogens.
B Lymphocytes	Internal Specific	Acquired	Produce antibodies that neutralize microorganisms.	During infection.	Slow at first, but durable.	They block or destroy the pathogen with precision.
Tears	External Biochemical	Innate	Contains enzymes and substances that destroy bacteria.	Before microorganisms enter.	Constant.	Protects eyes against infections.
Eyelashes	External Mechanical	Innate	Prevents the entry of dust and microorganisms into the eye.	Before microorganisms enter.	Constant.	Physically protects the ocular surface.
T Lymphocytes	Internal Specific	Acquired	Destroy infected cells or coordinate the immune response.	During infection.	Slow to activate, but long-lasting.	Eliminates damaged cells and activates other defenses.