

LOW BLOOD PRESSURE

(Hypotension)

CAUSES

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(2010)

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IMPORTANT

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Causes of low blood pressure include:

- Taking drugs to treat high blood pressure (hypertension) - especially drugs called diuretics and alpha blockers
- Acute illnesses that cause severe blood loss or damage to the heart
- Diseases involving the nerves that control the veins in the legs
- Diabetes - as diabetes can also damage the nerves
- A disease of the adrenal gland (Addison's disease) - this can cause a loss of sodium from your body, resulting in low blood pressure
- Early stages of pregnancy
- Loss of blood due to serious injury or loss of fluid due to burns
- Septic shock and toxic shock syndrome - bacterial infections which attack the walls of the small blood vessels, causing them to leak fluid from the blood into the surrounding tissues, which can result in severe hypotension pressure, and, sometimes, darkening of the skin
- Septicaemia is a severe infection in which bacteria (or other infectious organisms such as fungi) enter the blood. The infection typically originates in the lungs (as pneumonia), bladder, or in the abdomen due to diverticulitis or gallstones, etc

The bacteria then enter the blood where they release toxins and cause life-threatening and profound low blood pressure (septic shock), often with multiple organ damage

- Autonomic disorders - such as diabetes mellitus, Parkinson's disease (a chronic condition that affects the way the brain controls body movements), and multiple system atrophy (a disorder

that causes deterioration of the brain signals to the muscles and limbs responsible for movement

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