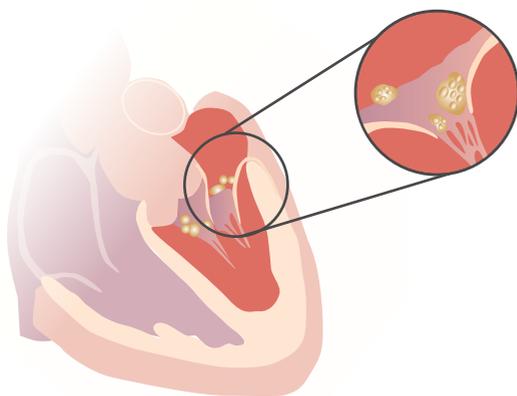# Infective endocarditis

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

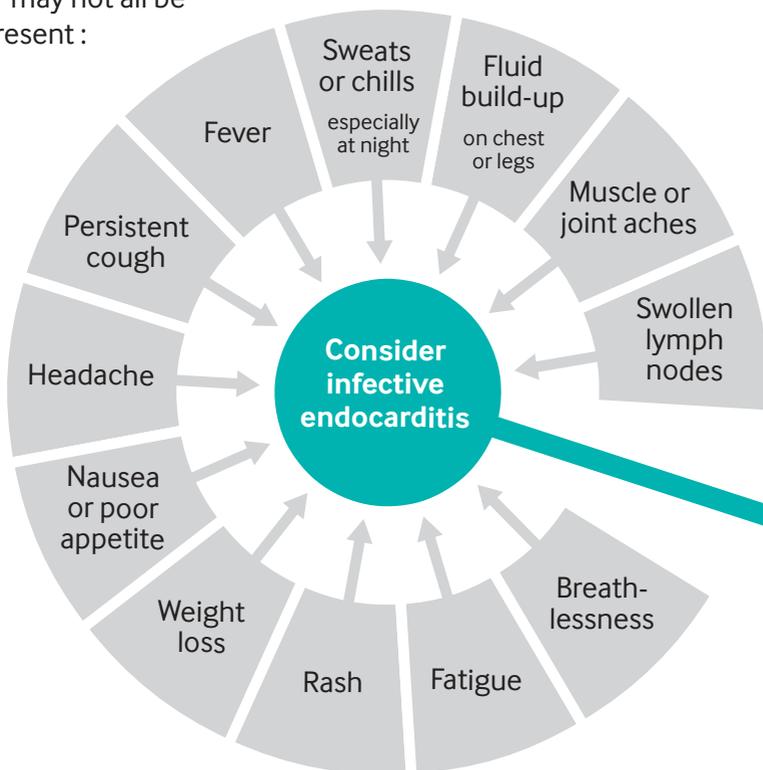It can affect anyone, but you are at increased risk if you have:

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 :

- Fever
- Sweats or chills *especially at night*
- Fluid build-up *on chest or legs*
- Muscle or joint aches
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Persistent cough
- Headache
- Nausea or poor appetite
- Weight loss
- Rash
- Fatigue
- Breath-lessness

Consider infective endocarditis

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