ENDOCARDITIS

Bacterial Endocarditis is an infection in the lining of your heart. In addition to damaging the heart itself, the infection can travel in the blood to your brain, lungs or kidneys.

You develop bacterial Endocarditis when bacteria get into your blood stream, and travel to the heart. Bacteria gets into your blood by using needles that are not <u>sterile</u>. Even if a new, sterile needle is used, bacteria from the skin can get pushed into your veins.

Symptoms of bacterial endocarditis

- > Fever, tiredness, headache
- > Night sweats, chest pain
- General "lousy" feeling
- Shortness of breath

Symptoms can develop over a couple of days or a couple of weeks.

If you have these symptoms and they do not go away, go get checked. ✓

DON'T DELAY

注 ENDOCARDITIS WILL KILL YOU IF IT'S NOT 注 PROPERLY TREATED

Treatment usually means 2-4 weeks in the hospital, so antibiotics can be given directly into the blood stream.

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