

## Primary Immunodeficiencies: Bringing Education and Awareness to Healthcare Professionals Worldwide

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### Abstract

Primary immunodeficiencies are a group of over 360 disease states which result from the inability of the natural immune system to protect the body from infection. These diseases are generally due to genetic mutations and can affect both the male and female population. Characterized by recurrent, chronic infections, diagnosis of these diseases can be difficult, in part due to lack of awareness. It is estimated that approximately six million people worldwide have a primary immune deficiency, yet only 20% of these people have been diagnosed. Studies have shown that there can be a delay of up to twelve years in diagnosis of these diseases.

It is critical to educate healthcare professionals about the warning signs of primary immunodeficiencies so that diagnosis can be made, and treatment can begin. There is no cure for primary immunodeficiencies, however, treatment can slow the progression of organ damage associated with these diseases as well as improve the quality of life for patients.

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