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Sommario/riassunto

"The immune system can be classified into 2 basic component: (1) the innate immune system, and (2) the acquired immune system. The innate immune system is considered to be relatively agnostic to any specific antigen, and is often described as invariant. The innate immune response is the first line of defense, and typically exhibits limited specificity. Examples of innate immune response may include phagocytosis by macrophages, barriers to infect provided by the skin and tears, NK- and mast cells, and complement mediated cytotoxicity. In contrast, the adaptive (or sometimes called acquired) immune response develops in response to specific antigen, being 'custom' designed for the antigen in question, usually occurs later in the immune response, and has the ability to recall the response to past infections. Components of a functioning acquired immune response might involve antigen presenting cells presenting antigen to T-cells, the activation of specific T-cells which would signal to B-cells enlisting their engagement in the response and the production of highly specific antibody capable of binding specific antigen. T- and B- lymphocytes are the major types of lymphocytes found in the human body, where they can constitute 20-40% of all white blood cells, with only about 2-3% of these being found in the peripheral circulation, the remainder being localized to various lymphoid organ is (lymph nodes, spleen, submucosal tissue). Remarkably, the total mass of lymphocytes in the body can approximate the mass of the brain and liver"--
