

THE ROLE OF FEVER IN HEALING AND REPAIR

HEALTH ISSUES #20

Fever is a systematic response to infection. It is generally agreed that moderate elevation of body temperature improves the body's disease fighting ability. A fever caused by infection actually helps the body destroy its microbial invaders.

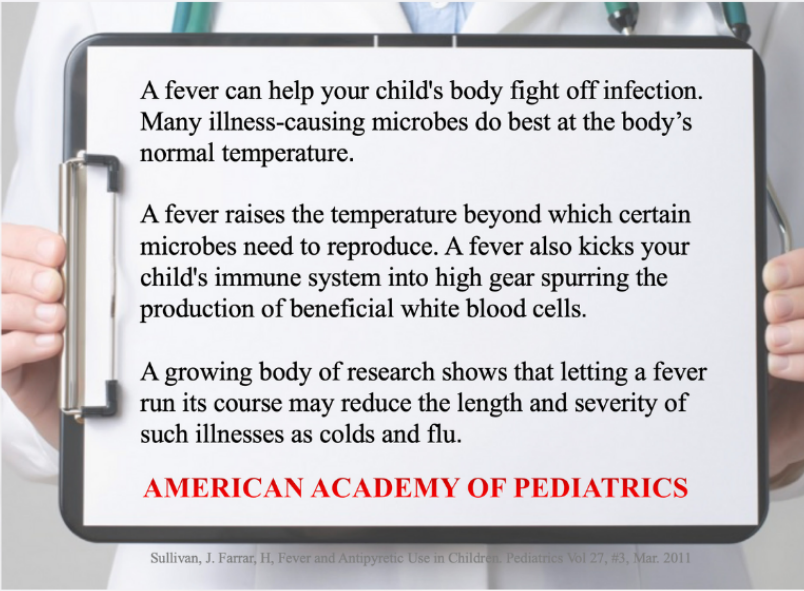
HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

Marieb, E. Human Anatomy and Physiology, P.179

One of the reasons that you feel bad when you have the flu, is that higher levels of interferon cause you to have certain symptoms, including fever and chills. This is evidence that your body is working hard to get rid of the virus.

CELLULAR & MOLECULAR LIFE SCIENCES

Mahony, R. Gargan, S. Roberts., K.A novel anti-viral role for STAT3 in IFN- α signaling responses.2016



A fever can help your child's body fight off infection. Many illness-causing microbes do best at the body's normal temperature.

A fever raises the temperature beyond which certain microbes need to reproduce. A fever also kicks your child's immune system into high gear spurring the production of beneficial white blood cells.

A growing body of research shows that letting a fever run its course may reduce the length and severity of such illnesses as colds and flu.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Sullivan, J. Farrar, H., Fever and Antipyretic Use in Children. Pediatrics Vol 27, #3, Mar. 2011

"Fever is the body's normal response to infection, it's a natural defense mechanism. A high temperature triggers the body's production of infection fighting white blood cells and inhibits the growth of viruses and bacteria. If you lower the fever, you may be affecting the body's ability to respond to that infection."

PEDIATRICS

Sullivan, J. Fever and Antipyretic Use in Children Pediatrics Mar.2011, Vol 127 #3

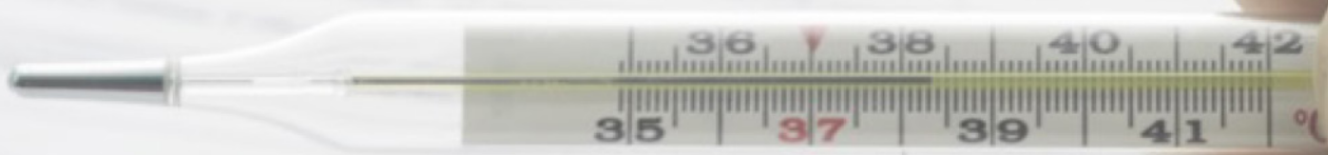
A study published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology found that children who ran a fever during their first year were less likely to develop allergies later in childhood than children who did not experience fevers.

L.Keoki Williams The relationship between early fever and allergic sensitization at age 6 to 7 years. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology 113(2): 291-296 (2004)

Scientists have found more evidence that elevated body temperature helps certain types of immune cells to work better and that the immune system might be temporarily enhanced functionally when our temperatures rise with fever.

JOURNAL OF LEUKOCYTE BIOLOGY

Mace, A. Zhong, L. Kilpatrick, C. Differentiation of CD8+ T cells into effector cells is enhanced by physiological range hyperthermia. Nov. 2011 90:951-962;



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