B-cell vs T-cell immunodeficiency

Predict the infections from the arm lost



Step by step

1. Ask how old the baby is
2. Ask which organisms
3. Name the arm lost

Arm lost	Infections
Antibody (XLA)	Encapsulated bacteria; enterovirus, Giardia
T cell	Viruses, Candida, Pneumocystis, opportunists
Both (SCID)	Candida, Pneumocystis, E. coli; first months

Arm lost and infection pattern

Rule of thumb

Lose antibody: extracellular bacteria win

Lose T cells: viruses, fungi, opportunists win

Maternal IgG fades at about 6 months

Exam traps

- XLA: BTK, pre-B arrest, almost no immunoglobulin of any class.
- T-cell loss also weakens antibody production.
- SCID: vaccines do not protect; live vaccines can cause infection.

For exam study only, not medical advice. Follow local guidelines and your lab's ranges.
© 2026 Medservatory, a project of ADMR Solutions Ltd. Free to print and share for personal study.