

sources of infection is of two types endogenous and exogenous .

**endogenous sources:** organisms of normal Flora are usually nonpathogenic but occasionally they behave as pathogens outside their habitat.

Example- viridians streptococcus in mouth may cause endocarditis.

**exogenous sources:** most of the infections are exogenous this include carriers, animals, insects, soil & water and food.

- **Human carriers :** the most common source of infection in men is because of spread of infection from Man himself  
a carrier is a person who carries the pathogenic microorganisms but will not suffer any ill effects from it

- **animals:** infectious diseases transmitted from animals to man are called **zoonoses**.  
example =Salmonella food poisoning, rabies from dogs, and fungal infection from cats and dogs.

- **Insect:** insects transmitting infections are called **vectors**.  
There are mechanical vectors and biological vectors.  
mechanical vectors are the organisms which carry the pathogens on their legs ,wings and body and transmit them to eatables .  
example "transmission of dysentery by domestic fly .  
biological vectors the pathogen multiplies in the body of the vector and undergoes a part of development in it.  
example of female Anopheles mosquito in malarial parasite.

- **Soil and water:** some pathogens survive in soil for a longer period so from this it could be transmitted to man. example spores of tetanus.

contamination of water with pathogenic microorganisms can also cause infectious diseases and example hepatitis virus ,vibrio cholera .

- **food:** contaminated food act as a source of infection in case of food poisoning, diarrhoea ,dysentery ,gastroenteritis

### Modes of transmission infection

pathogenic organisms can spread from one person to another by various mechanism