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Effect of a fever in viral infections – the ‘Goldilocks’ phenomenon?

Fever in viral infections

Abstract

Acute infections, including those due to Coronaviridae and other viruses, often stimulate a febrile response. A mild fever appears to improve outcome; it appears to diminish viral replication by several mechanisms, including virion entry into host cells and genome transcription, and improving host defence mechanisms against the pathogen. However, a fever may also damage host cellular and tissue function and increase metabolic demands. At temperatures at the lower end of the febrile range, the benefit of the fever appears to outweigh the detrimental effects. However, at higher temperatures the outcome worsens, suggesting that the disadvantages of fever on the

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Dec 18, 2019 · The **fever phenomenon** has been documented in at least two large-scale studies over the past 15 years, but the reasons behind it have continued to mystify scientists. Now, a new study by researchers at Harvard Medical School and MIT sheds light on the cellular mechanisms that appear to underlie this **phenomenon**.

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