CONCEPT: EXOTOXINS VS. ENDOTOXINS

•Now let's highlight some of the differences between exotoxins & endotoxin.

Property	Exotoxins	Endotoxins	
Bacterial Source	Gram Positive & Gram Negative Bacteria	Gram Bacteria	
Location in/on the Bacterium	Within the cytoplasm. May or may not be secreted.	Component of the outer memrbane.	
Chemical Nature		Lipopolysaccharide (Lipid A Component)	
Ability to Form a Toxoid	Yes (Normally)	No 🚫	
Heat Stability	Inactivated by Heat (Normally)	Heat	
Effect on Human Body	Affects cell functions, nerves, & gastrointestinal tract.	Fever, weakness, body aches, & septic shock.	
Toxicity (Ability to Cause Disease)	TOXIC TOXIC	Low Unless it infects the bloodstream.	
Lethal Dose	↔ Small ↔	Large	

PRACTICE: Endotoxins are	and need to be in	concentrations to cause	disease in a host
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- a) Extremely toxic; small.
- c) Slightly toxic; small.
- b) Extremely toxic; large.
- d) Slightly toxic; large.

PRACTICE: Which of the following is *not* a major difference between endotoxins and exotoxins?

- a) Exotoxins are more toxic than endotoxins.
- b) Endotoxins are made by viruses while exotoxins are made by bacteria.
- c) Exotoxins are made of proteins while endotoxins are made of lipopolysaccharides.
- d) A small concentration of exotoxins can be lethal while a large concentration of endotoxins is lethal.

PRACTICE: The diphtheria toxin is secreted by *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* bacteria. This toxin has two components, one that binds the host cell and one that causes disease. Which of the following about the diphtheria toxin is *false*?

- a) An endotoxin.
- c) An A-B toxin.
- e) Highly toxic.

b) An exotoxin.

- d) A protein toxin.
- f) Lethal in small doses.