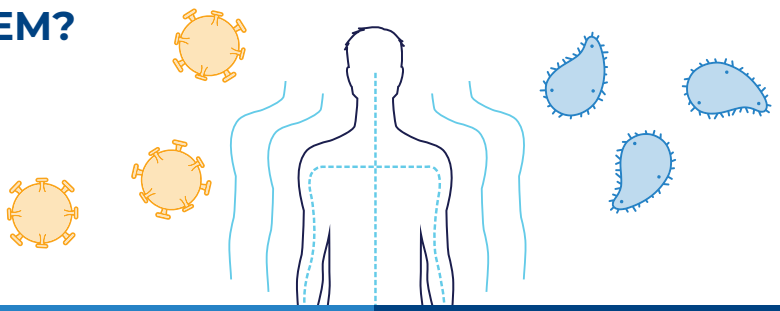


# Understanding the Complement System



## WHAT IS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM?

The immune system is a complex network of organs, cells and proteins which work together to protect the body against infection and disease.






## WHAT IS THE COMPLEMENT SYSTEM?

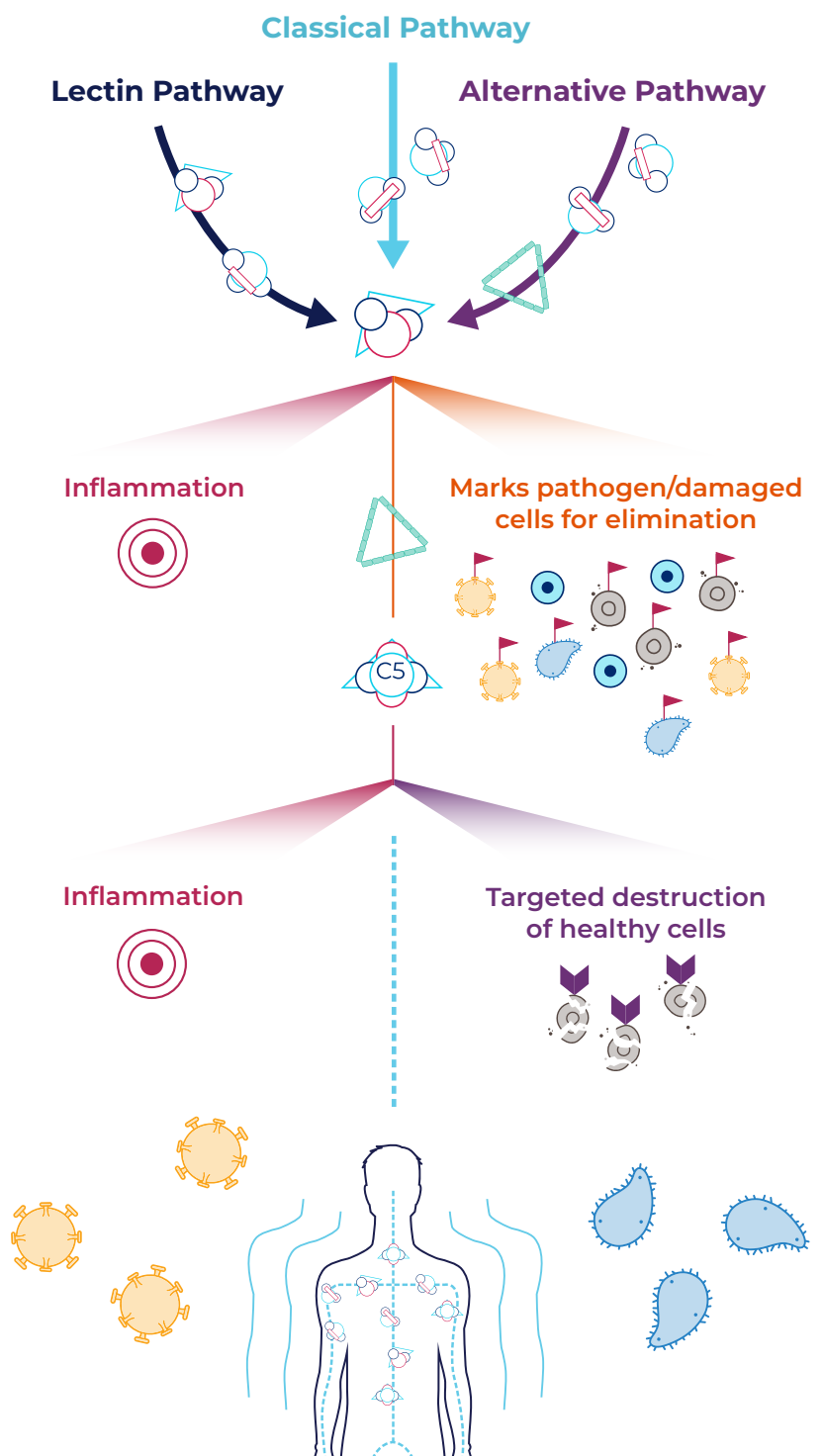
The complement system is a part of the immune system and is essential to the body's defense against infection.

Made up of **3 UNIQUE PATHWAYS**  
(Classical, Lectin and Alternative)

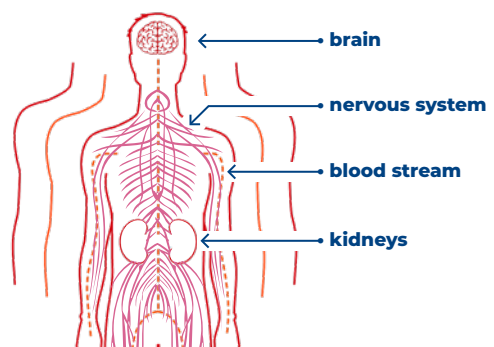
Each pathway can become **activated to trigger a cascade of protein reactions** that initiate an immune response to detect and eliminate:

-  **Bacteria**
-  **Viruses**
-  **Dead cells**

When the complement system is working properly, it is a strong and powerful tool that **protects the body** against harmful invaders.



But when the system is thrown out of balance, or dysregulated, the proteins can **trigger a dangerous, uncontrolled cascade of reactions that attack cells** and tissues.



## UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF THE COMPLEMENT SYSTEM

Alexion's pioneering legacy in rare diseases is rooted in being the first to translate the complex biology of the complement system into transformative medicines.

 **3 DECADES**  
of complement inhibition research

 **20 YEARS**  
of real-world evidence demonstrating the safety and power of targeted complement inhibitors

Dysregulation of the complement system is a key driver of many devastating diseases. Alexion has paved the way for a new class of medicines that inhibit the complement system, prevent further damage and reduce disease symptoms.

Alexion is committed to continue unlocking the potential of the complement system and accelerating the **discovery and development of new life-changing therapies for even more patients.**