

Appendix 2

Major Diseases during the War of 1812

Disease	Description
Bilious Fever	Fever, seating, weakness, and aches, sometimes chronic. Caused by contact with infected animals.
Catarrhal Fever (severe cold, mild influenza, mild pneumonia)	A catch-all term for anything that causes fever, congestion, and aches. By far the most common ailment at sea.
Consumption (Tuberculosis)	Often affects lungs, but can infect any part of the body. Symptoms include coughing (sometimes coughing up blood) and sweating. Also causes high fever and excessive weight loss.
Dysentery	Abdominal pain and cramps, diarrhea, and sometimes fever. Usually caused by a bacteria or parasite transmitted through feces or contaminated water.
Intermittent Fever (Malaria)	High fever and sweating that comes and goes at intervals. Also can cause nausea and vomiting. Spread by mosquitoes that often breed in shallow pools of freshwater.
Rheumatism	High fever, sweating, joint and muscle pain.
Scurvy	Pale skin, sunken eyes, loss of teeth, corkscrew hairs. Other symptoms included weariness; stinking breath; muscle pain; bleeding from the nose, gums, or other parts of the body. Caused by a lack of vitamin C.
Typhus	High fever, decreased mental and physical functioning, and severe rash. Spread by lice and fleas from animals, particularly rats.