The spleen is the largest lymph node in the body and has an important role in immune surveillance and the control of infection. When the spleen is damaged, it may cause sepsis, nephritis, and septicemia. This can be a serious threat. If a person is exposed to the threat, they should be immediately vaccinated.

- **Prevention:**
  - Vaccination is recommended for anyone over 6 months of age who has not been vaccinated or whose immune status is unknown.
  - People who have had a splenectomy should be vaccinated against meningococcal and pneumococcal infections.

- **Treatment:**
  - Penicillin V potassium (125 mg orally twice daily) is the antibiotic of choice for most pneumococcal infections. Other antibiotics, such as cephalaxin (500 mg orally three times daily), may also be effective.

- **Monitoring:**
  - Regular monitoring is important for people with spleen disorders or who are at risk of splenic injury, such as people with sickle cell disease, HIV/AIDS, or alcohol use disorder.

- **Conclusion:**
  - Spleen and encapsulated bacteria are important in immune surveillance and the control of infection. Vaccination and regular monitoring are crucial for people at risk of splenic injury.

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**Note:** This information is for educational purposes only and should not be used as a substitute for professional medical advice.

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**References:**