

Preventable Disease Easel for Meningococcal Disease

Easel developed on meningococcal disease epidemiology, cure, and preventive vaccination for patient education.

...gococcal disease?

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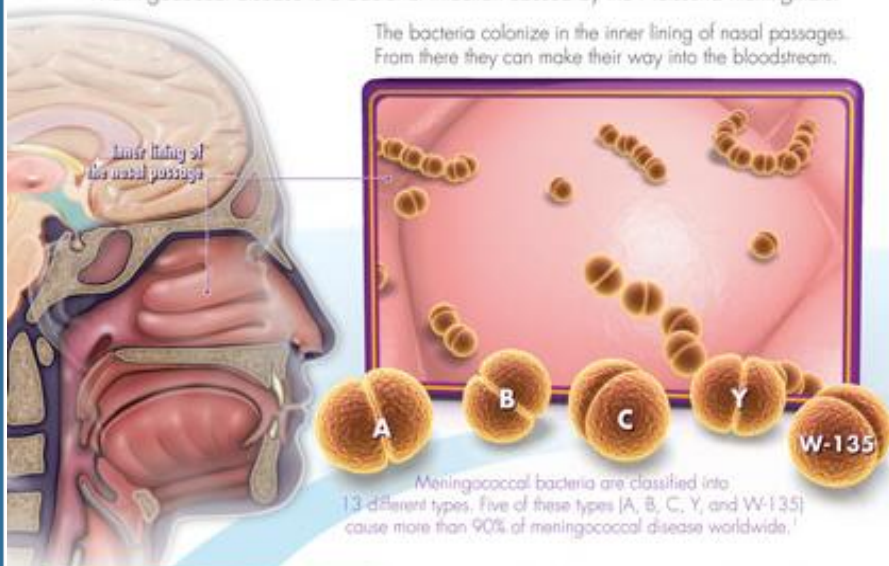
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...d infection called

Preventable Disease Easel for Meningococcal Disease

What is meningococcal disease?

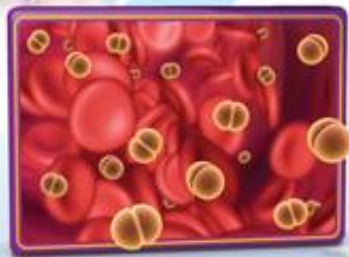
Meningococcal disease is a bacterial infection caused by the *Neisseria meningitidis*.

The bacteria colonize in the inner lining of nasal passages. From there they can make their way into the bloodstream.

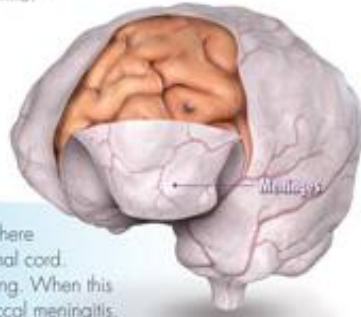


Meningococcal bacteria are classified into 13 different types. Five of these types (A, B, C, Y, and W-135) cause more than 90% of meningococcal disease worldwide.¹

If the bacteria multiply very quickly in the bloodstream this can lead to a severe blood infection called meningococemia.^{1,2}



The bacteria can also get carried to the brain and spine where they can attack the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. These membranes are called meninges. When this happens the disease is referred to as bacterial meningococcal meningitis.



How do you get meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal bacteria spread from person to person through close contact. Infants and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to meningococcal disease.³

Adolescents are at higher risk of contracting meningococcal disease because of several social and environmental factors. See the chart below:^{4,8}

Impaired Immune System

- Complement deficiency
- Humoral immune deficiency states
- Asplenia
- HIV/AIDS

Nasopharyngeal irritation

- Smoking
- Respiratory tract infection

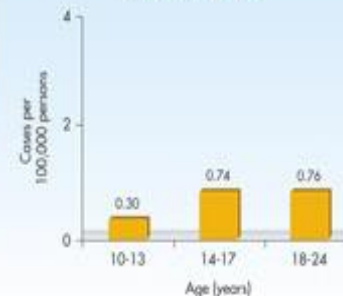
Social factors involving close respiratory contact⁴

- Crowding
- Kissing
- Pubs/clubs
- Dormitories

In the United States, the annual estimated incidence of meningococcal disease in adolescents and young adults (14-24 years old) was observed to be 0.75-cases-per-100,000 individuals.³



Estimated Incidence of Meningococcal Disease in Persons Aged 10 Through 24 Years of Age



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What can be the long-term effects of severe meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease leaves its impact long after hospitalization. Approximately 11% to 19% of people who survive meningococcal disease suffer from significant, permanent injury, including amputations.¹²



Image courtesy of the National Meningitis Association

Survivors of Meningococcal Disease May Be Left With One or More of These Conditions¹³⁻¹⁵

Physical

- Hearing loss/deafness
- Skin grafts
- Limb loss
- Digit amputation
- Brain abscess
- Skeletal damage
- Growth disturbance
- Arthritis
- Kidney failure
- Chronic organ damage
- Stroke
- Cerebral thrombosis

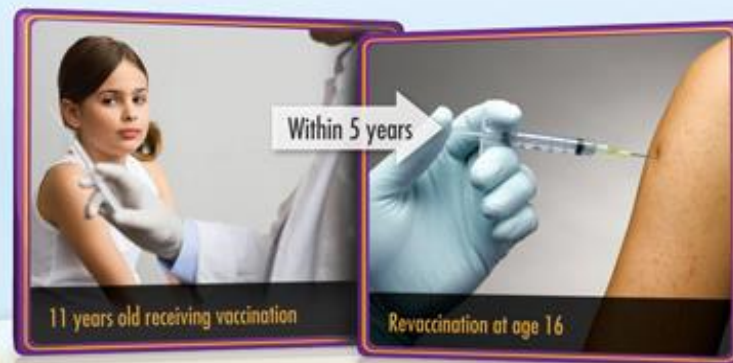
Neurological/cognitive

- Seizure disorders/epilepsy
- Neuropsychiatric disorders/post-traumatic disorders
- Learning disability
- Motor deficits
- Neurodevelopmental defects
- Cognitive defects

Pathological conditions from meningococcal disease

How you can help prevent meningococcal disease through vaccination

Vaccination is considered to be the most effective method of preventing meningococcal disease. A number of different vaccines are currently available for bacterial types A, C, W-135, and Y. There are no vaccines presently available to protect against type B bacteria.¹⁵



11 years old receiving vaccination

Revaccination at age 16

In January 2011, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended routine vaccination with a single-dose vaccine for adolescents, optimally at age 11 or 12 years followed by revaccination at age 16 years, 5 years after the first dose received because there is a potential decline of immunity over a 5-year period.¹⁶



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