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This material is intended for use by healthcare professionals.

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WHAT IS MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE?

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacteria *Neisseria* meningitidis. It is transmitted from person-to-person through saliva and spit. Babies, small children, and young adults are most at risk.^[1]

SYMPTOMS*

*Initial symptoms may vary and be non-specific.
In older children and adults[1]

· sudden fever

nausea

vomiting

· sensitivity to light

· headache

- · confusion
- · stiff neck or backache
- · red or purple rash

In babies and small children[1]

It can be difficult to notice the symptoms in babies and young children, and only few signs of illness may be present. Some of the symptoms you should be alert for are:

· high fever

· changes in sleeping patterns

· unusual crying

- · seizure
- refusing to eat or drink
- · purple rash

· vomiting

SEVERE EFFECTS[2]



Meningococcal disease can affect fit and healthy children



Death can be sudden, within 24 hours of symptoms



1 in 10 children who get IMD will DIE



1 in 5 survivors

will suffer long-term disabilities such as loss of limbs, brain damage, and deafness

HOW CAN I GET INVASIVE MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE (IMD)?

It is passed through saliva and contracted once bacteria enters the bloodstream. $^{[3,4-6]}$

Transmission can be as easy as close, lengthy contact such as coughing and kissing.^[7]

WHAT ARE THE OTHER COMPLICATIONS BROUGHT BY INVASIVE MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE (IMD)?

IMD has severe sequelae that affects 10-20% of survivors:[8-11]

· Loss of limb/s

- Nervous system problems
- · Deafness/hearing loss
- · Brain damage

Even when treated, it can still lead to death, affecting 10-15 in 100 people.^[8-10] When untreated, the case fatality rate reaches over 50%^[9]

HOW CAN I PREVENT INVASIVE MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE (IMD)?

IMD prevention is just around the corner, so protect yourself with:[12]

- Healthy habits
- ✓ Getting plenty of rest
- ✓ Avoiding close contact with sick people
- ✓ Asking your doctor about disease prevention

IMD is just lurking around the corner.

Talk to your doctor about Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) vaccination today.