Vaccination is the best protection against meningococcal serogroup C infections and their complications. Meningitis (infection of the brain lining) and meningococcemia (infection of the blood) are 2 serious infections caused by serogroup C meningococcus. There are different serogroups (or types) of meningococcus, among other serogroups A, B, C, W and Y. This vaccine protects against serogroup C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Signs and symptoms</th>
<th>Possible complications</th>
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| Serogroup C meningococcal infections | • High fever  
• Severe headache  
• Nausea and vomiting  
• General feeling of illness  
• Red marks or tiny pin-size hemorrhages or bruises on the skin | • Permanent brain damage  
• Amputation of hands or feet (10 to 15% of cases)  
• Death (10 to 15% of cases) |

The vaccine
Vaccination is the best protection against meningococcal serogroup C infections and their complications. This vaccine is usually given at the age of 18 months, and in Secondary 3.

Symptoms after vaccination
Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g. redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

Meningococcal serogroup C conjugate vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Possible reactions to the vaccine</th>
<th>What to do</th>
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</table>
| In most cases (more than 50% of people) | • Pain at the injection site | • Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.  
• Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed.  
• See a doctor if symptoms are severe. |
| Very often (less than 50% of people) | • Redness and swelling at the injection site  
• Fever, drowsiness (sleepiness) and irritability, especially among children under 5  
• Headache, discomfort, muscle pain and joint pain, especially in people age 11 or older  
• Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea | |

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 8-1-1 or your doctor.