

Meningococcal Serogroup B Vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

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

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Serogroup B meningococcal infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High fever• Severe headache• Nausea and vomiting• General feeling of illness• Red marks or tiny pin-size hemorrhages or bruises on the skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deafness• Scars• Permanent brain damage• Amputation of hands or feet• Death (5 to 15% of cases even after treatment)

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against meningococcal serogroup B infections and their complications. The vaccine is recommended for persons with a high risk of infection from meningococcus.

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 B vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long.

Frequency	Known reactions to this vaccine	What to do
In most cases (more than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site• Fever (≥ 38 °C), unusual crying, loss of appetite, irritability, drowsiness (sleepiness), vomiting and diarrhea in children under 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.• Use medication for fever or discomfort if needed.• See a doctor if symptoms are severe.
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headache in teenagers from ages 11 to 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For children under 2, give acetaminophen as soon as possible after vaccination, and then every 4 to 6 hours for the first 12 hours.

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 Info-Santé 811 or your doctor.