

Meningococcal Quadrivalent Conjugate Vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

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

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
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	• 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 serogroups A, C, W and Y meningococcal infections and their complications. This vaccine is usually given at the age of 18 months and in Secondary 3. The vaccine is also recommended for persons with a high risk of infection from meningococcus. It is also recommended for persons travelling to regions where the risk of meningococcal infection is high.

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

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
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 health professional if symptoms are severe.
Very often (less than 50% of people)	• Redness and swelling at the injection site • Headache, muscle pain, fatigue, discomfort, nausea, pain in joints, diarrhea, loss of appetite, irritability, drowsiness (sleepiness)	
Often (less than 10% of people)	• Fever, shivering, vomiting, skin rash	

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 811 or a health professional.