

What to expect after the vaccine

Some children may have discomfort, redness or swelling where the injection was given.

They may be irritable and have a raised temperature. If this happens you can give them infant paracetamol or ibuprofen. You should also give them plenty to drink.

Make sure they are not too warm and that their clothes are not rubbing against the injection area.

Who should not receive the Men C vaccine?

The Men C vaccine is safe for most people. However, your child should not get it if they have had a true allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or to any part of the vaccine.

Remember

Men C vaccine only protects against Men C meningitis and septicaemia caused by meningococcal C infection.

There are other causes of meningitis and septicaemia so you need to know the symptoms to look out for. These may include:

- fever,
- refusing food,
- pale or blotchy skin, spots or a rash, or
- drowsiness or difficulty in waking.

If you are worried about your baby, call your family doctor immediately.



For more information:

- Contact your family doctor or public health nurse.
- Get a copy of 'Your child's immunisations – a guide for parents', which is available from your public health nurse.



Published by:
HSE National Immunisation Office
Publication date: June 2008
Order code: HNI00511



For further info visit www.immunisation.ie

immunisation



Men C vaccine

parent information leaflet



Meningococcal C vaccine Information for parents



What is meningococcal C?

Meningococcal C (Men C) is a serious disease caused by bacteria called *neisseria meningitidis* serogroup C. The symptoms of Men C disease include fever, stiff neck, headache, joint pains and rash.

How is Men C disease spread?

The bacteria that cause Men C live in the nose and throat. A person who carries the bacteria can spread the disease by coughing, sneezing or even breathing.

What illnesses does it cause?

Men C can cause serious illness including:

- meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain), and
- septicaemia (blood poisoning).

Who is most at risk?

Men C disease is most common in children under five. Babies under one year of age are especially at risk. It is also common in teenagers aged 15-19 years.

Is there a vaccine against Men C?

Since 2000, Men C vaccine has been included in the childhood immunisation programme.

Babies born on or after 1 July 2008 should get the Men C vaccine at 4, 6 and 13 months, at the same time as their other vaccines.

Is it safe to get more than one vaccine at the same time?

Yes, it is safe. The vaccines are timed to give your baby the best protection.

Does my child need a Men C booster?

To have extra protection against Men C infection, your child should get a Men C booster at 13 months, at the same time as their Hib vaccine.



This vaccine is available
free from your GP.