



MENINGITIS, BACTERIAL OR VIRAL

WHAT IS MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE?

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE IS A BACTERIAL INFECTION OF THE BLOODSTREAM OR MENINGES (A THIN LINING COVERING THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD) CAUSED BY THE MENINGOCOCCUS GERM.

WHO GETS MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE?

ANYONE CAN GET MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, BUT IT IS MORE COMMON IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN. FOR SOME ADOLESCENTS, SUCH AS FIRST-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS LIVING IN DORMITORIES, THERE IS AN INCREASED RISK OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE.

HOW IS THE MENINGOCOCCUS GERM SPREAD?

THE MENINGOCOCCUS GERM IS SPREAD BY DIRECT CLOSE CONTACT WITH NOSE OR THROAT DISCHARGES OF AN INFECTED PERSON.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

HIGH FEVER, HEADACHE, VOMITING, STIFF NECK AND A RASH ARE SYMPTOMS OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE.

WHEN DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

THE SYMPTOMS APPEAR TWO TO 10 DAYS AFTER INFECTION.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS OF MENINGITIS?

AMONG PEOPLE WHO DEVELOP THE ILLNESS, A SMALL PERCENTAGE DIES EVEN WITH TREATMENT. OF THOSE WHO LIVE, PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE, HEARING LOSS, KIDNEY FAILURE, LOSS OF ARMS OR LEGS, OR CHRONIC NERVOUS SYSTEM PROBLEMS CAN OCCUR.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE?

MEDICATION CAN BE USED TO TREAT PEOPLE WITH MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE.

IS THERE A VACCINE TO PREVENT MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE?

YES. THE VACCINE IS RECOMMENDED FOR ALL ADOLESCENTS ENTERING MIDDLE SCHOOL (11 TO 12 YEARS OLD) AND HIGH SCHOOL (15 YEARS OLD), AND ALL FIRST-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS LIVING IN DORMITORIES.