

► Meningococcal Group C Conjugate Vaccine



"Vaccination is good protection"

This vaccine protects you against meningococcal group C infections and their complications. Infection of the brain's lining (meningitis) and blood poisoning (meningococemia) are two serious diseases caused by the meningococcus bacteria. There are different types (or groups) of meningococcus: A, B, C, Y, and W-135.

The conjugate vaccine protects against meningococcus group C, a common cause of disease.

DISEASES

Meningococcus group C causes:

- High fever
- Severe headaches
- Nausea and vomiting
- General unwellness
- Red marks, small hemorrhages the size of pinpricks, or bruises on the skin

Possible complications of meningococcal group C infections include:

- 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 way to protect yourself against meningococcal group C infections. In Ontario, one dose of vaccine is given to all one-year-olds or at age 12 or between the ages of 15 and 19. High risk individuals of all ages are also immunized.

The meningococcal group C conjugate vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any undesirable reactions.

Inform your health care provider if you or your child (if your child is receiving this vaccine) have/has an allergy to any vaccine or latex.

EFFECTS

Possible side effects

- In the three days after vaccination, you may experience redness or tenderness around the injection site.

These side effects are more common in older children, occurring in 2% to 4% of babies and infants and nearly a third of children aged 4 to 18.

- The vaccine may cause other reactions such as fever, irritability in children under 18 months, and headaches in children aged 6 to 18.

Severe allergic reactions are rare.

What to do

- Apply a cold, damp cloth to the injection site.

- Take a fever medication such as acetaminophen if your child's temperature is 38.5°C or over.

Should a severe allergic reaction occur, it would begin immediately and the person who gave the vaccine will be able to treat it. That's why you should stay on site for at least 15 minutes after the vaccination.

For more information, ask the person who gave you the vaccine or another health care provider.

