

Meningococcal Group C Conjugate Vaccine



Vaccination is good protection



This vaccine protects against meningococcal group C infections and their complications. Meningitis (infection of the brain's lining) and blood infection (meningococemia) are two serious illnesses caused by the meningococcus bacteria. There are different types (or serogroups) of meningococcus (A, B, C, Y, and W135). In Québec, serogroup B (for which there is no vaccine) and serogroup C are the most common. This vaccine protects against serogroup C meningococcus.

Meningococcus serogroup C infection causes:

- High fever
- Severe headache
- Nausea and vomiting
- General feeling of illness
- Red marks or tiny pin-size hemorrhages or bruises on the skin

DISEASE

Possible complications:

- Permanent brain damage
- Amputation of hands or feet (10-15% of cases)
- Death (10-15% of cases)

VACCINE

Vaccination is the best protection against meningococcal serogroup C infections and their complications. In Québec, one dose of vaccine is given at the age of 1 year. The vaccine is also administered from the age of 2 months to anyone with a medical condition that increases their risk of serious meningococcal group C infection.

The meningococcal group C conjugate vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long. Symptoms experienced after vaccination are not necessarily caused by the vaccine.

Possible reactions to the vaccine:

- Tenderness (50% or more), redness or hardening (10-49%) at the injection site
- Fever, drowsiness, irritability, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, general malaise, muscle pain, joint pain (10-49%)

Notes: Fever, drowsiness and irritability are more common in children under 5. Headache, malaise and muscle or joint pain are more common in individuals aged 11 and above.

REACTIONS

What to do:

- Apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site
- Take acetaminophen or ibuprofen for temperature of 38.5°C or higher
- See a doctor if symptoms are severe

As with any drug or biological product, an allergic reaction may occur. If a severe allergic reaction occurs, it begins within minutes and the person administering the vaccine will be able to treat it. That is why you are advised to remain at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after the vaccine is administered.

If you have any questions, ask the person administering the vaccine or contact Info-Santé (8-1-1) or your doctor.

