

Meningococcal Conjugate Quadrivalent Vaccine



« Vaccination is good protection »

This vaccine protects against meningococcal infections and their complications. Meningitis (infection of the brain's lining) and meningococemia (blood infection) are two serious illnesses caused by the meningococcus bacteria. There are different types (or serogroups) of meningococcus (A, B, C, Y, W135). In Québec, group B (for which there is no vaccine) and group C are the most common. Conjugate quadrivalent vaccine protects against serogroup A, C, Y and W-135 meningococcus.

DISEASE	Meningococcal infection causes:	Possible complications:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High fever • Severe headache • Nausea and vomiting • General feeling of illness • Red marks or tiny pin-size hemorrhages or bruises on the skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent brain damage • Amputation of hands or feet (10-15% of those infected with serogroup C) • Death (10-15% of individuals infected with serogroup C)

VACCINE

Vaccination is the best protection against serogroup A, C, Y and W135 meningococcal infections and their complications. It is recommended for people who are at higher risk of severe meningococcal infections. This vaccine is also recommended for people travelling to regions where the risk of meningococcal infection is high.

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

REACTIONS	Possible reactions to the vaccine:	What to do:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenderness (50% or more), redness or swelling (10-49%) at the injection site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache, fatigue, malaise, joint pain, diarrhea, loss of appetite, irritability and drowsiness (10-49%) <i>Notes: Drowsiness and irritability are more common in children aged 2 to 10. Headache, fatigue and malaise are more common in individuals aged 11 and over.</i> • Fever, vomiting and blotchy skin (1-9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take acetaminophen or ibuprofen for a temperature of 38.5°C or higher • See a doctor if symptoms are severe
<p>A few cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) have been reported in the weeks following vaccination. We cannot state with certainty that the vaccine increases the risk of developing GBS. GBS causes progressive, reversible paralysis, but it can sometimes have permanent health effects. It is a rare disease. Its cause is unknown but usually GBS occurs after the patient has had symptoms of a respiratory or gastrointestinal viral infection.</p>		

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.