

Meningococcal disease

DISEASE:

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*. The disease is often severe and can be deadly.²⁵

The invasive form of meningococcal disease can take one's life in just 24 hours.²⁶

Doctors treat meningococcal disease with antibiotics but quick medical attention is extremely important.

Keeping up to date with recommended vaccines is the best defense against meningococcal disease.²⁵

TRANSMISSION:²⁷

Meningococcal bacteria is spread by sharing respiratory and throat secretions (saliva/spit) for example, coughing, kissing or lengthy contact.



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:²⁸

Flu-like symptoms or sudden onset of:

- Fever
- Stiff neck
- Headache

It will often also cause:

- Nausea
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Confusion
- Vomiting
- Rash



POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:²⁹

- Meningococcal meningitis (infection of the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord)
- Meningococcal septicaemia (infection of the bloodstream)
- Up to 1 in 5 survivors will suffer disabilities, nervous system problems or brain damage



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