

A Guide for Patients and Families

Meningococcal Meningitis (ACWY) Vaccine



What is Meningococcal Disease?



Meningococcal disease is a potentially severe illness caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*. It can lead to conditions such as meningitis, which is an infection of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, as well as bloodstream infections.

There are at least 12 types of *N. meningitidis*, called "serogroups." Serogroups A, B, C, W, and Y cause most meningococcal disease.

The disease can spread through close contact, such as coughing or kissing or through prolonged interaction, especially among people living in the same household.

Who should be vaccinated against Meningococcal Disease?



Travelers going to meningitis belt in sub-Saharan Africa



Pilgrimages such as Haj

Vaccination schedule for Meningococcal ACWY

It is given as a series of one to four doses, depending on the age when the first individuals, a booster dose recommended every 5 years.

Additionally, Saudi authorities mandate proof of vaccination for travellers participating in pilgrimages.

Side Effects That May Occur After Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination:

- ◆ The vaccine may cause **redness, swelling or soreness** at the injection site. Other side effects include **appetite loss, drowsiness, headache, fever and fatigue.**
- ◆ Look out for any unusual conditions, such as **very high fever or behavior changes.**
- ◆ Signs of a serious allergic reaction can include **difficulty in breathing, swelling of face and throat, hives, weakness, a fast heartbeat or dizziness.**

If these unusual reactions occur, see a doctor right away.



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