

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS



WHAT IS BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

Meningitis is an infection of the membranes that protect the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis is most often caused by a virus (viral meningitis), but can also be caused by bacteria (bacterial meningitis). Bacterial meningitis is rare, but is serious. It can be life-threatening, if not treated right away.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Bacterial meningitis spreads through:

- Childbirth,
- Coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others,
- Sharing saliva, or
- Eating contaminated food.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN ADULTS



Fever



Headache



Stiff Neck



Nausea/Vomiting



Sensitivity to Light

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN BABIES



Being Slow/Inactive



Being Irritable



Vomiting



Feeding Poorly



Bulging Soft Spot

PREVENTION

Vaccines are the best way to prevent certain types of bacterial meningitis. There are vaccines for four types of bacteria that can cause meningitis:

- **Meningococcal vaccines** (MenACWY and MenB) help protect against *N. meningitidis*.
- **Pneumococcal vaccines** (PCV15 or PCV20) help protect against *S. pneumoniae*.
- **Haemophilus influenzae serotype b (Hib) vaccines** help protect against Hib.
- **Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine** helps protect against tuberculosis disease, but is not widely used in the United States.