It’s serious: Meningococcal disease, though rare, can cripple or kill, often without warning.

- Unpredictable – most cases occur at random, not in outbreaks; transmitted in crowded settings
- Sudden onset – difficult to diagnose; mimics symptoms of common illnesses
- Rapidly progresses – can lead to shock, coma, and death within 24 hours
- Even with proper treatment of those who are infected, 10%–15% die
- 11%–19% of survivors suffer lifelong disability (hearing loss, amputation of arms or legs, or brain damage)

It affects all ages, but especially adolescents and young adults.

- 16–21 years of age: At highest risk among people older than 1 year of age

It’s preventable: Safe and effective meningococcal vaccines are available and recommended.

- Not 1 shot but 2: First dose of MCV4 at 11–12 years of age (recommended since 2005) AND
- A second dose at 16 years of age (recommended since 2010)

Opportunities to give MCV4 are frequently missed when adolescents are already in the office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for Visit</th>
<th>Eligible patients (%) who did NOT receive MCV4 during visit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preventive care (n = 1678)</td>
<td>57% (n = 954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccine-only (n = 527)</td>
<td>86% (n = 453)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-preventive care (n = 2944)</td>
<td>96% (n = 2821)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Unfortunately, 86% of patients who were in the office for a “vaccine-only” visit did not receive the first dose of MCV4 along with other recommended vaccines.
- Timely vaccination remains a challenge in meningococcal disease prevention. More than 70% of those eligible for the second dose at 16 years of age had not received it by 17 years of age.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Recognize the increased risk of meningococcal disease in your adolescent patients.
- Make sure your adolescent patients (including those who are not college-bound) are fully vaccinated against meningococcal disease.
- Give the first dose of MCV4 at 11–12 years of age and the second dose at 16 years of age.

*MCV4 (Meningococcal conjugate vaccine 4-valent or Meningococcal ACWY vaccine) helps protect against meningococcal disease resulting from infection with serogroups A, C, W, or Y. www.Give2MCV4.org
RECOMMEND!

► Make meningococcal disease prevention part of your anticipatory guidance for adolescent and young adult patients.

Talking points:
• Meningococcal disease is rare but can be deadly for young people your age.
• You are at increased risk from your mid-to-late teens into your early twenties.
• Disease comes on suddenly, without warning, and can quickly become life-threatening.
• Meningococcal vaccine is safe and effective.
• 2 doses are recommended for adolescents your age.

► Your strong recommendation for MCV4 will make a difference.

VACCINATE!

ACIP Recommendations for MCV4
Give dose #1 at 11–12 years of age AND dose #2 at 16 years of age

Recommendations if dose #1 is delayed:
• If dose #1 is delayed until 13–15 years of age, give dose #2 at 16–18 years of age.¹
• If dose #1 is delayed until 16 years of age or older, dose #2 is not recommended.

¹ The minimum interval between doses of MCV4 is 8 weeks. Thus, it is possible to give the first dose at 15 and the second dose at 16 years of age, as long as the minimum 8-week interval between doses is observed.

² Routine MCV4 vaccination of healthy persons who are not at increased risk for exposure to Neisseria meningitidis is not recommended after 21 years of age.

REVIEW!

► Establish office protocols (eg, screening tools) for identifying adolescents who need to be vaccinated.

► Make use of helpful management tools (reminder-recall systems, standing orders, immunization registries, electronic health record prompts) to track and improve your vaccination coverage.

► Don’t miss opportunities! Train your staff to help identify teens who need vaccination.

Consider every patient encounter an opportunity to vaccinate:
✓ Acute care visits
✓ Well visits
✓ Sports and camp physicals
✓ Routine visits for chronic illness
✓ Visits for influenza vaccine

www.Give2MCV4.org
Remember: You’re not done if you give just one!

References: