

Meningococcal C Conjugated Vaccine

The meningococcal C conjugated vaccine is part of Yukon children's regular immunization program.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child against group C meningococcal infection. This group of infections includes meningitis, which is an infection of the brain membrane, and meningococemia, which is an infection of the blood. This type of infection spreads easily through close contact like kissing, coughing and sneezing or from sharing food, water bottles, straws, toothbrushes, etc.

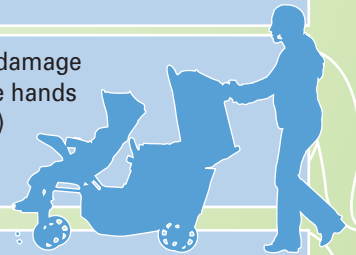
The conjugate vaccine against group C meningococcus is very effective and very safe. In most cases, it causes no adverse reaction.

Group C Meningococcal infections WILL cause:

- High fever
- Severe headaches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Decline in general health
- Rashes

Infections can have the following complications:

- Permanent brain damage
- Amputation of the hands or feet (10 to 15%)
- Death (10 to 15%)



Possible side effects of the vaccine:

- Redness or increased sensitivity at injection site (within 72 hours of vaccination).
- Rarely, your child may display a fever, irritability and discomfort.

What to do:

- Apply a cold, damp compress to the vaccine site.
- Administer acetaminophen-type medication if oral temperature is 38.5°C or higher.



Severe allergic reactions are rare, begin immediately and can be treated by the person who gave the vaccine. You should remain on site for at least 15 minutes after vaccination so that an allergic reaction, if there is one, can be treated.

Yukon's immunization programs for children and youth currently include vaccines against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, whooping cough, Haemophilus influenzae and hepatitis B.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the staff at the Health Centre in your community.

**Consult your health care provider if side effects persist over 48 hours.
For more information on vaccinations, visit: <http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/>**

January 2007 — Program implemented June 2005.