

Meningococcal Quadrivalent Vaccine

Men-ACYW-135 vaccine

The **Men-ACYW-135 vaccine** is part of the routine Yukon Immunization Schedule for children and adolescents.

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial infection caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*. It can progress rapidly and lead to life-threatening inflammation of the brain (meningitis) and bloodstream infections (septicemia), even in otherwise healthy individuals.

The disease spreads easily through coughing, sneezing or contact with saliva. People may carry and transmit the bacteria without showing symptoms. Meningococcal disease can cause high fever, severe headache, nausea, vomiting, a decline in overall health and a characteristic rash. Complications may include permanent brain damage, deafness or limb loss. The infection can be fatal in 10 to 15 per cent of cases.

What is the Men-ACYW-135 vaccine ?

This is a conjugate vaccine that protects against four strains (A, C, W and Y) of the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*. These bacteria cause invasive meningococcal disease. The vaccine works by stimulating the body's immune system to produce antibodies against the bacteria.

Why the vaccine is recommended

Nimenrix is highly effective at preventing invasive meningococcal disease caused by serogroups A, C, W and Y. It helps protect against life-threatening infections such as meningitis and sepsis, which can progress very quickly and cause severe complications or death. Vaccination significantly reduces the risk of hospitalization, long-term disability and death.

Who should get the vaccine?

- Individuals 12 months to 24 years of age.
- Individuals at high risk of disease, including those with asplenia, congenital immunodeficiency, a solid organ transplant, a hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) or those taking terminal complement inhibitors.

Possible reactions to the vaccine

Common reactions to the immunization may include redness, tenderness and swelling at the injection site. Some people may also develop a mild fever, headache, fatigue or digestive symptoms. These reactions are usually mild and last 1 to 2 days.

Side effects are generally easy to manage. You can apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site. If needed, a pain reliever such as acetaminophen may help. Speak with your healthcare provider if symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

After you get the vaccine

- Stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine.
- Severe allergic reactions are very rare. Clinic staff are trained to treat them right away. If you have symptoms of a severe reaction after leaving the clinic, call 911 or your local emergency number right away.