

## ABOUT MENINGITIS

Bacterial meningitis is a serious infection in young children and can result in many complications. The death rate is around 5%<sup>1</sup>. Of the children who contract bacterial meningitis around one in five will have permanent disabilities such as cerebral palsy and deafness<sup>2</sup>.

The most common types of bacteria that cause meningitis are:

- *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib)
- Meningococcal germ
- Pneumococcal germ.

The Hib germ used to be the most common cause of meningitis in Western Australian children but is now prevented with routine Hib vaccination in babies.

In Australia, Group B and C meningococcal strains cause the most disease with group B responsible for most cases in children from WA.

There is no vaccine currently available for the group B strain.

A vaccine is now available for group C meningococcal disease in young children and is provided on the routine schedule at 12 months of age.

Source <sup>1-2</sup> <http://www.meningitis.com.au> 16/01/2006

## HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE STUDY?

To find out more information or to book an appointment, please contact Larissa Rhind on:

**Telephone: 9340 8542**

Or

**Email: [vtg@ichr.uwa.edu.au](mailto:vtg@ichr.uwa.edu.au)**

In Perth, this study is run by the research nurses and doctors at the Vaccine Trials Group, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, in conjunction with Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and the University of Western Australia School of Paediatrics and Child Health.



## MENINGITIS PROTECTION FOR TODDLERS



**INFORMATION  
BROCHURE**

## WHAT IS THE STUDY ABOUT?

The purpose of the study is to try to reduce the number of injections babies receive while still protecting them against the germs that cause meningitis.

The current childhood immunisation schedule for babies aged 12 months is meningococcal c (MenC), *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) given as three separate injections.

This study will look at how well a combined HibMenC vaccine protects babies compared to giving the Hib and MenC vaccines separately. MMR will also be given at this time.



## WHO CAN TAKE PART?

Healthy babies aged between 12 and 18 months who haven't yet had their 12 month vaccinations.



## ARE THERE ANY COSTS INVOLVED?

No, there are no costs involved. We will provide free parking at Princess Margaret Hospital for each visit. If your child has any health issues during the study and requires treatment, the study doctor will arrange for appropriate follow up care.

## WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DO?

- Come to the Vaccine Trials Group at Princess Margaret Hospital for seven visits over five years.
- Allow your child to be randomised into a group to receive either a combined HibMenC vaccine or Hib and MenC given separately with the other 12 month vaccine of MMR.
- Allow your child to receive all of their 12 month routine vaccinations
- Allow your child to have seven blood tests over five years
- Keep a record of any symptoms that may occur following your child's immunisation.

All the information we will collect will be kept confidential and in a secure place at the Vaccine Trials Group at Princess Margaret Hospital.