

About Meningitis

Meningococcal disease is a severe and rapid-onset infection which can result in death within hours, due to septicaemia (blood poisoning) or meningitis. It is caused by Meningococcal bacteria, called *Neisseria meningitidis*, which is a bacteria found commonly in the nose and throat of humans, but which only occasionally causes disease.

Meningococcal meningitis is a significant worldwide threat to the health of children and young adults.

The B strain is the most common type of Meningococcal disease in Western Australia, accounting for about 80% of cases.

Most cases of meningitis, including meningococcal B, occur in babies and young adults. The highest incidence is in infants aged from one month to one year with a second peak in adolescents.

There is currently no vaccine to protect against the B strain of this disease.

How do I find out more about the study?

For more information or to book an appointment please contact the Research Nurses on

phone - 9340 8542

or

email - vtg@ichr.uwa.edu.au

In Perth, this study is run by the research nurses, doctors and scientists 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.

The study is being sponsored by an Australian affiliate of a pharmaceutical company.



Meningococcal disease can affect anyone



Meningococcal Group B vaccine study for toddlers



What is the study about?

Currently, there is no Meningococcal B vaccine available in Australia. This study will be the first for toddlers aged 18 to 36 months to receive the meningococcal B vaccine.

Toddlers taking part in this study will help us to learn whether the meningococcal B vaccine is safe and effective in preventing meningococcal B disease. A similar study is currently in progress with young adults aged 18 to 25 years.

Are there any costs involved?

No. There are no costs involved. Limited free parking is available at the research centre for each visit. If your child has any health issues during the study which require treatment, the study doctor will arrange for appropriate follow-up care.

Who can take part?

Healthy toddlers aged 18 to 36 months who have not received a Hepatitis A or Meningococcal B vaccine, or had meningococcal disease.



What will I have to do?

- Come to the Vaccine Trials Group at Princess Margaret Hospital with your child for six visits over 8 months
- Allow your child to be randomly assigned to receive either the Meningococcal B vaccine or Hepatitis A vaccine
- Allow your child to have four blood tests over 8 months – an anaesthetic cream is available to reduce the discomfort of the blood test
- Complete an electronic diary of any symptoms that may occur following vaccination

