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.
- 16–23 year olds: At highest risk among people older than 1 year of age

It’s preventable: Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (MenACWY*) is safe, effective, and recommended.
- Not 1 shot but 2: First dose of MenACWY at 11–12 years of age (recommended since 2005) AND
- A second dose at 16 years of age (recommended since 2010)

Opportunities to give MenACWY 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 MenACWY during visit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preventive care</td>
<td>57% (n = 954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccine-only</td>
<td>86% (n = 453)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-preventive</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 MenACWY along with other recommended vaccines.
- Timely vaccination remains a challenge in meningococcal disease prevention. More than 60% 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 vaccinated against meningococcal disease.
- Give the first dose of MenACWY at 11–12 years of age and the second dose at 16 years of age.

* MenACWY is a vaccine that helps protect against meningococcal disease resulting from infection with serogroups A, C, W, or Y.

Continued on next page
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 and into your early twenties.
- Disease comes on suddenly, without warning, and can quickly become life-threatening.
- Meningococcal vaccines are safe and effective.
- 2 doses of MenACWY are recommended for adolescents your age.

▶ Your strong recommendation for MenACWY will make a difference.

VACCINATE!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACIP Recommendations for MenACWY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Give dose #1 at 11–12 years of age AND dose #2 at 16 years of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations if dose #1 is delayed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- If dose #1 is delayed until 13–15 years of age, give dose #2 at 16 years of age.¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- If dose #1 is delayed until 16 years of age or older,² dose #2 is not recommended.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The minimum interval between doses of MenACWY is 8 weeks. So it is acceptable to give the first dose at 15 years of age and the second dose at 16, as long as the minimum 8-week interval between doses is observed.
² Routine MenACWY 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 (e.g., 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.give2menacwy.org

REMEMBER: You’re not done if you give just one!

References