



MENINGITIS

Learn the Symptoms - Meningitis can Kill in 24 Hours

INFANTS



Fever, possibly with cold hands & feet



Refusing feeds or vomiting



High pitched moaning cry or whimpering



Child is difficult to wake, lethargic



Dislike of being handled or fretful



Neck retraction with arching of back



Blank and staring expression



Pale, blotchy complexion

Floppy or stiff or jerking movements

CHILDREN/ADULTS



Stiff neck*



Headache



Fever



Fitting



Vomiting



Light sensitivity*



Drowsiness or confusion



Joint pain

Symptoms can appear in any order, & may not all be present.

*Young children with meningitis may not have a stiff neck *Young children with meningitis may not be light sensitive

A rash may also occur with some forms of meningitis

SEPTICAEMIA (Blood Poisoning)

Learn the Symptoms - Septicaemia can Kill in 24 Hours

Bacteria or germs which cause meningitis can also cause septicaemia (blood poisoning). Some people may develop meningitis or septicaemia or both.

In infants & young children the symptoms & signs of meningitis & septicaemia may be similar & develop rapidly.

SYMPTOMS IN INFANTS & YOUNG CHILDREN MAY INCLUDE:

- Fever (possibly with cold hands & feet)
- Dislike of being handled or fretful
- Vomiting or refusing feeds
- Child is difficult to wake or lethargic
- Breathing problems or rapid breathing
- Diarrhoea
- Pale blotchy complexion
- Floppy or stiff body or jerking movements
- Blank staring expression
- High pitched moaning cry or whimpering
- Rash*

*The rash can start anywhere on the body & can vary in appearance. Not every person who has meningitis or septicaemia will have a rash. If you believe someone is seriously ill do not wait for a rash to appear as it may not appear in all cases. Seek urgent medical attention.

Symptoms can occur in any order, & may not all be present.

In older children & adults the symptoms of septicaemia may occur by themselves, or together with those of meningitis.

SYMPTOMS IN CHILDREN & ADULTS MAY INCLUDE:

- Fever (possibly with cold hands & feet)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Behaviour changes (ie irritable or restless)
- Drowsiness/reduced consciousness/lethargy (however many people may be alert until late in the development of the disease)
- Pain in legs or arms
- Pain in abdomen or chest
- Unusual skin colour or pale complexion
- Breathing problems or rapid breathing
- Sore muscles or joints
- Confusion
- Chills
- Diarrhoea
- Rash*

If concerned, see a doctor immediately!

Don't hesitate to return to the doctor or hospital immediately if the person deteriorates or you are still concerned!

For further information about meningitis visit www.meningitis.com.au or Freecall 1800 250 223

The Meningitis Centre: Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

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