MENINGITIS AND SEPTICAEMIA
ANYONE ANYTIME ANYWHERE
Learn the symptoms

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
- Floppy or stiff body or jerking movements
- Dislike of being handled or fretful
- Neck retraction with arching of back
- Blank and staring expression
- Pale, blotchy complexion

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

*The rash can start anywhere on the body & can vary in appearance. Not every person who has meningitis or septicaemia will have a rash.

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)
- Unusual skin colour or pale complexion
- Breathing problems or rapid breathing
- Sore muscles or joints
- Confusion
- Chills
- Diarrhoea
- 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.

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
100 Roberts Road, Subiaco, WA 6008 Phone: 9489 7791 Freecall: 1800 250 223 Fax: (08) 9489 7705 Email: meningitis@ichr.uwa.edu.au

Disclaimer: The Meningitis Centre is a ‘not for profit’ support organisation based in Australia, not a professional medical authority. The Meningitis Centre’s literature provides general information about meningitis, not medical advice. Please consult your doctor for further information & seek medical attention if you are concerned someone may be ill.

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