

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 *

In older children & adults the symptoms of septicaemia may occur 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 *

*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.



Meningitis and Septicaemia

ANYONE
ANYTIME
ANYWHERE

Learn the symptoms

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!

Freecall 1800 250 223

www.meningitis.com.au

Meningitis

Learn the Symptoms – Meningitis can Kill in 24 Hours

For further information
about meningitis visit

www.meningitis.com.au

INFANTS



Fever, possibly with cold hands & feet



Refusing feeds or vomiting



High pitched moaning cry or whimpering



Dislike of being handled or fretful



Neck retraction with arching of back



Blank & staring expression



Child is difficult to wake, lethargic



Pale, blotchy complexion



Floppy or stiff or jerking movements

CHILDREN/ADULTS



Stiff neck *



Headache



Fever



Vomiting



Light sensitivity*



Drowsiness or confusion



Joint pain



Fitting

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

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!

The Meningitis Centre

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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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