

Septicaemia (blood poisoning)

Bacteria or germs which cause meningitis can also cause septicaemia (blood poisoning). Some people may develop meningitis or septicaemia or both. In infants and young children the symptoms and signs of meningitis and septicaemia may be similar and develop rapidly. In older children and adults the symptoms of septicaemia may occur together with those of meningitis.

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*

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, 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 and 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.*

These are common symptoms and can appear in any order. Some may not appear at all.

If concerned, see a doctor immediately! Every second counts!

Meningitis, Meningococcal and Septicaemia

Learn the Symptoms
Meningitis can Kill in 24 Hours



**MENINGITIS
CENTRE
AUSTRALIA**

*Raising awareness.
Every second counts.*

Free Call 1800 250 223

Meningitis

Learn the symptoms – Meningitis can kill in 24 hours

For further information about meningitis visit:

meningitis.com.au

	Babies	Children & Adults		Babies	Children & Adults
 Fever, cold hands and feet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Rapid breathing/grunting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Vomiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Pale blotchy skin/spots/rash	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Tired/floppy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Unusual crying/refuses to feed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Blank expression	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Bulging soft spot on top of head	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Dislikes being handled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Stiff neck/dislikes bright lights*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Severe headache	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Fitting/stiff jerking movements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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Free Call 1800 250 223

M–F 8am–4pm (WST). Closed Thursday

11 Aberdare Road, Nedlands WA 6009



A rash may also occur with some forms of meningitis. These are common symptoms and can appear in any order. Some may not appear at all.

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

If concerned, see a doctor immediately! Every second counts!

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

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.