BEXSERO is a vaccine to help protect against meningococcal B.[3]

BEXSERO only helps to protect against meningococcal B. A separate vaccine is required to help protect against groups A,C, W and Y disease.[3,5]

BEXSERO is now funded on the National Immunisation Schedule. Ask your doctor or nurse if your child is eligible for funded BEXSERO. If your child is not eligible, BEXSERO is available for private purchase. BEXSERO is funded for the following groups:[4]

Children up to 12 months of age

BEXSERO is part of the National Immunisation Schedule, meaning that all children up to 12 months of age (inclusive) are funded to receive three doses of BEXSERO. Funding is also available for children under 5 years of age as part of a catch-up programme, from 1 March 2023 to 31 August 2025.

Teens and young adults 13 to 25 years

Two doses of BEXSERO are funded for people aged 13 to 25 years (inclusive) who are in their first year of specified close-living situations, including boarding school hostels and tertiary education halls of residence. A catch-up programme with two doses is also funded for people who are already in close-living, from 1 March 2023 to 28 February 2024.

What to expect

The most common side effects for infants and toddlers are tenderness and pain at the injection site, fever, and irritability and in adolescents and adults, pain at the injection site, generally feeling unwell, and headache.[3]

Fever can be expected after any vaccination, but is more common with BEXSERO, particularly when BEXSERO is administered at the same time as other vaccines. The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) recommend the use of paracetamol with every dose of BEXSERO administered to children <2 years of age, regardless of the presence of fever.[3,5]

For more information visit menB.co.nz

BEXSERO
Meningococcal Group B Vaccine
(rDNA, component, adsorbed)

1. Thompson MJ, Ninis N, Perera R, et al. Clinical recognition of meningococcal disease in children and adolescents. Lancet. 2006;367:397–403 2. World Health Organization. Meningococcal meningitis. September 28, 2021. Available at: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/meningitis. Accessed January 2022. 3. GlaxoSmithKline NZ, BEXSERO Data Sheet 2021. Available at: https://medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/b/bexseroinj.pdf. Accessed January 2023 4. PHARMAC. Decision to widen access to the meningococcal B vaccine and secure supply of the shingles vaccine. 2022. Available at: https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations-and-decisions/2022-12-08-meningococcal-b-vaccine-notification/. Accessed January 2023 5. Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC). Bexsero: A vaccine to protect against Meningococcal group B disease Fact Sheet. Available at: https://assets-global.website-files.com/637315ab5c5af16c7e809c42/637315ab5c5af12a1680a03f_NonprogrammeVaccineBexseroImac20210701%20V04.pdf. Accessed January 2023 6. Rosenstein NE, et al. Meningococcal disease. N Engl J Med 2001; 344(18):1378-88. 7. The Institute of Environmental Science and Research. Provisional Meningococcal Disease Data. Data Request January-December 2022. 8. Christiensen H, et al. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2010;10:853–61. 9. Ministry of Health, Wellington. Meningococcal disease (including meningitis). Summary Tab. Available at: https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/meningococcal-disease-includingmeningitis. Accessed January 2023 10. Ministry of Health. Meningococcal Disease – Don't Wait Take Action. Available at: https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/meningococcal-disease-dont-wait-take-action. Accessed January 2023

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE CAN TAKE A LIFE IN 24 HOURS.

You can help prevent it with BEXSERO.[1,2,3]

Meningococcal disease, often referred to as meningitis, is an uncommon but serious infection.[1,2]

BEXSERO is now funded on the National Immunisation Schedule.*[4]
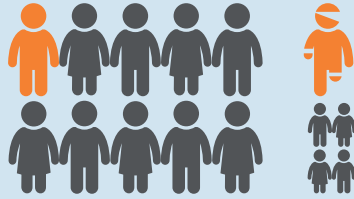
*See Pharmaceutical Schedule for full funding criteria

BEXSERO
Meningococcal Group B Vaccine
(rDNA, component, adsorbed)

What is Meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease, often referred to as meningitis, is an uncommon but serious infection caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*. A person with meningococcal disease can develop meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain), septicaemia (blood infection) or pneumonia. It strikes and progresses quickly - usually without warning.[1,5]

ABOUT 1 IN 10 INFECTED WITH MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE CAN DIE, SOMETIMES WITHIN 24 HOURS [1,5,6]

AND UP TO 1 IN 5 CAN SUFFER FROM SERIOUS LONG-TERM COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING BRAIN DAMAGE, DEAFNESS, AND LIMB LOSS.[5,6]

GROUP B IS THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE IN NZ, RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER

80%

OF CASES IN 2022.[*7]

There are several different groups of meningococcal bacteria, of which there are five groups that most commonly cause disease (A, B, C, W and Y).[5]

*of those cases that could be typed, (46/57), December 2022 ESR data.[7]

IN NEW ZEALAND OVER

HALF

OF MENINGOCOCCAL B CASES OCCUR IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.[7]

How is it spread?

The bacteria that cause meningococcal disease live within the nose and throat. Around 10 - 20% of people will carry the bacteria at any one time, without ever becoming ill.[8]

They can be spread through everyday behaviours, including:[9]

COUGHING & SNEEZING

SHARING DRINKS & EATING UTENSILS

LIVING IN CLOSE QUARTERS

KISSING

Who's at risk?

Babies in the first year of life and children under 5 years of age are at most risk.[5] Therefore, it is important to start vaccination as early as possible (according to official recommendations). Adolescents and young adults are also at increased risk.[5]

Know the signs and symptoms

Early symptoms of meningococcal disease may appear mild – similar to those of a cold or the flu. However, symptoms can progress quickly and may include:[10]

HIGH FEVER

STIFF NECK

DISLIKE BRIGHT LIGHTS

VOMITING

SLEEPINESS

RASH

Additional symptoms in babies may include:
Cold hands and feet or shivering, being floppy or harder to wake, unusual crying and refusal to eat.

Additional symptoms in older children and adults may include:
Headache, confusion, joint pain and aching muscles.

DON'T WAIT FOR A RASH TO APPEAR BEFORE GETTING MEDICAL HELP. SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY IF YOU SEE ONE OR MORE OF THE SYMPTOMS ABOVE[10]