

Protecting your baby against meningitis and septicaemia

MenB vaccine now available

Information about the MenB vaccine and paracetamol use

From September 2015, a vaccine will be available as part of the NHS childhood immunisation programme, to help protect against MenB disease.

Babies will be offered the MenB vaccine with the other routine vaccinations at two months, four months and 12 months of age. Vaccinating babies at these times helps protect them when they are most at risk of developing MenB disease.

Using paracetamol to prevent fever in babies after the MenB vaccination

Fever can be expected after any vaccination, but is more common when the MenB vaccine is given with the other routine vaccines at two and four months. The fever shows the baby's body is responding to the vaccine, although not getting a fever doesn't mean it hasn't worked.

Giving paracetamol will reduce the risk of fever after vaccination. Your nurse will give you more information about paracetamol at your vaccination appointment.

Infant paracetamol should be on your essential shopping list in preparation for your baby's arrival. If you do not have any paracetamol liquid for infants at home you should get some from your local pharmacy or supermarket ready for your two month vaccination visit.



MenB disease

MenB disease is a serious illness caused by the 'B' strains of meningococcal bacteria. These bacteria are a major cause of meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and septicaemia (blood poisoning) in young children.

The MenB vaccine

This vaccine is being offered in addition to the MenC vaccine which is given at three months of age and which has been very successful at protecting children against MenC disease but does not protect against other strains of meningococcal bacteria.

The MenB vaccine will not protect against other bacteria and viruses that can cause meningitis and septicaemia. So if you are at

all concerned about your baby at any time, then trust your instincts and speak to your GP or call 111. Additional information and advice on the use of paracetamol following your baby's MenB vaccination will be provided at your baby's routine immunisation appointment.

Further information is available at:
www.nhs.uk

You can also find more information advice and support at:

Meningitis Research Foundation

Free helpline 080 8800 3344
www.meningitis.org

Meningitis Now Helpline from
9am to midnight 0808 80 10 388
www.meningitisnow.org

NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

