

# Meningococcal Disease IN CANADA

A recent survey<sup>1</sup> of Canadian parents with children aged four and under revealed that:

**7/10** parents feel they **do not know** enough about the **different strains** of meningococcal disease and the **damage** it can cause



Out of a list of **14 vaccine-preventable** diseases, **meningococcal disease** was considered by **more parents** (37%) to pose a

**top 3 health risk** to their **children**



**34%** of parents **don't know** or are unsure of the most **common way** for children to **contract it**



**68%** are **unsure** about what **vaccines** for the **common strains** of meningococcal disease are included within the **childhood immunization schedule**



**9/10** parents



believe their healthcare practitioners should inform them of all vaccines for preventable diseases, even if not available as part of routine immunization schedule

## Disease Information

Meningococcal disease is a **rare**, but **sudden**, potentially **life-threatening illness** that may manifest as bacterial meningitis<sup>2</sup>



In Canada, there is an **average** of almost **200 cases per year** of **invasive** meningococcal disease<sup>3</sup>



Meningococcal disease can be **treated with antibiotics**, though it is important that treatment be started promptly as the disease can **spread quickly** with **serious outcomes**<sup>2</sup>

Even with **early diagnosis & adequate treatment**, **5-10%** of cases **may end in death** within **24-48 hours** of the first symptoms<sup>4</sup>

**10-20%** of **survivors** may suffer subsequent **life-long disability**<sup>4</sup>



including



**Brain damage**<sup>4</sup>



**Hearing loss**<sup>4</sup>



**Learning disability**<sup>4</sup>

**Infants** followed by **adolescents** are at **greatest risk** of contracting meningococcal disease<sup>6</sup>



**5 main groups of bacteria** cause the **majority** of cases of meningococcal disease in Canada<sup>5</sup>

There are **vaccines available** for the **prevention** of **all 5 meningococcal serogroups**<sup>5</sup>

Meningococcal **serogroup B** is the **leading cause** of infection in Canada, responsible for almost **60% of cases** with the **next highest** group being the **Y strain**, responsible for an average of **34 cases annually**<sup>5</sup>

1 International Meningitis Parent Survey, Ipsos MORI on behalf of GSK. 5 February – 4 March, 2016. Canada sample size: 1000. (Data on file).  
 2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014). Bacterial Meningitis. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/bacterial.html>. Accessed April 2016.  
 3 Public Health Agency of Canada. Invasive Meningococcal Disease. Available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/vpd-mev/meningococcal-eng.php>. Accessed April 2016.

4 World Health Organization. (2012). Meningococcal Meningitis Factsheet N°141. Available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs141/en/>. Accessed February 2016.  
 5 Meningitis Research Foundation of Canada. (2011). Meningococcal vaccine. Available at <http://www.meningitis.ca/en/OverviewVaccines>. Accessed April 2016.  
 6 Jafri RZ, et al. (2013). Global epidemiology of invasive meningococcal disease. Population Health Metrics; 11:17. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3848799/>. Accessed February 2016.