Meningitis Angels

A 501(c)3 Organization founded in memory of Ryan Milley, the only child of Bob and Frankie.

We Need Your Help

Please make your tax deductible donation by mailing your check to
PO Box 448
Porter Texas 77365
or donate on-line at
www.meningitis-angels.org

For more information call or e-mail
Frankie Milley, Founder/ National Director
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Meningitis Does Not Stop At
The Dorm Room Door

For More Information
Visit the AAP, Sound Advice on Vaccines:
http://www.cispimmunize.org/fam/soundadvice.html
Please Join Our Cause On Facebook:
http://apps.facebook.com/causes/103719/35941843?m=6d54c0aa
Parent 2 Parent on Meningitis and Vaccines
http://www.parent2parentonmeningitis.com
Stomping Out Meningitis:
http://www.youtube.com/user/MeningitisAngels
CDC
www.cdc.gov

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What is Meningitis

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. People sometimes refer to it as spinal meningitis. Meningitis is usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection. Knowing whether meningitis is caused by a virus or bacterium is important because the severity of illness and the treatment differ depending on the cause. Viral meningitis is generally less severe and clears up without specific treatment. But bacterial meningitis can be quite severe and may result in brain damage, hearing loss, limb loss, blindness, severe organ damage, seizure disorders, learning disabilities and/or death.

What are the Signs and Symptoms

High fever, headache, and stiff neck are common symptoms of meningitis in anyone over the age of 2 years. These symptoms can develop over several hours, or they may take 1 to 2 days. Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking into bright lights, confusion, and sleepiness. In newborns and small infants, the classic symptoms of fever, headache, and neck stiffness may be absent or difficult to detect. Infants with meningitis may appear slow or inactive, have vomiting, be irritable, or be feeding poorly. As the disease progresses, patients of any age may have seizures and can die. Meningitis is a 911 emergency.

How is it Spread

Some forms of bacterial meningitis are contagious. The bacteria can mainly be spread from person to person through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions. This can occur through coughing, kissing, sharing drinks, and sneezing. Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as things like the common cold or the flu. Also, the bacteria are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been.

Experts believe smokers have a higher carrier rate. So please don’t smoke. This may put your child at a higher risk.

Who Should be Vaccinated

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine meningococcal vaccination of all persons aged 11-18 years of age at the earliest opportunity. Pre-teens who are 11-12 years old should be routinely vaccinated at the 11-12 year old check-up as recommended by ACIP. This visit is the best time for adolescents to receive their shot. Also, since the occurrence of meningococcal disease increases during adolescence, health-care providers should vaccinate previously unvaccinated pre-teens and teens aged 11-18 years at the earliest possible health-care visit. This vaccine does not prevent group B meningococcal meningitis. The current vaccine is approved for ages 2 years and older.

There are new vaccines on the horizon for infants (which accounts for approximately 30% of the cases) to prevent meningococcal meningitis.

All infants are recommended to have HIB and pneumococcal meningitis vaccines.

Children in daycare & those of American Indian, Eskimo & African American heritage are at a higher risk for pneumococcal & HIB meningitis. Meningococcal meningitis can also be found in this same group.