

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES

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Neisseria meningitidis causes severe, often fatal septicemia and meningitis. New polysaccharide-conjugate vaccines against four serogroups (ACWY) are now in use in many countries due to increase in W disease and epidemiological unpredictability. Since serogroup B contributes significantly to the burden of meningococcal disease in many industrialized and developing countries where both epidemic and endemic serogroup B infections occur, new vaccines are available against this serogroup as well. Vaccines effective against specific strains responsible for serogroup B disease have been licensed and have been included in National Immunization Programs with great success. The epidemiology and pathogenesis of meningococcal disease are detailed, along with discussion of the new advances on vaccine prevention of ABCWY meningococcal disease.

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