BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

SCAN ME

WHAT IS BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

Meningitis is an infection of the membranes that protect the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis is most often caused by a virus (viral meningitis), but can also be caused by bacteria (bacterial meningitis). Bacterial meningitis is rare, but is usually serious. It can be life-threatening, if not treated right away.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Common examples of how people spread these germs include:

- During childbirth,
- Coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others,
- Sharing saliva, or
- Eating contaminated food.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN ADULTS

| Fever | Headache | Stiff Neck | Nausea/Vomiting | Sensitivity to Light |

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN BABIES

| Being Slow/Inactive | Being Irritable | Vomiting | Feeding Poorly | Bulging Soft Spot |

PREVENTION

Vaccines are the best way to prevent certain types of bacterial meningitis. There are vaccines for four types of bacteria that can cause meningitis:

- **Meningococcal vaccines** (MenACWY and MenB) help protect against *N. meningitidis*.
- **Pneumococcal vaccines** (PCV15 or PCV20) help protect against *S. pneumoniae*.
- **Haemophilus influenzae serotype b (Hib) vaccines** help protect against Hib.
- **Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine** helps protect against tuberculosis disease, but is not widely used in the United States.

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