



MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

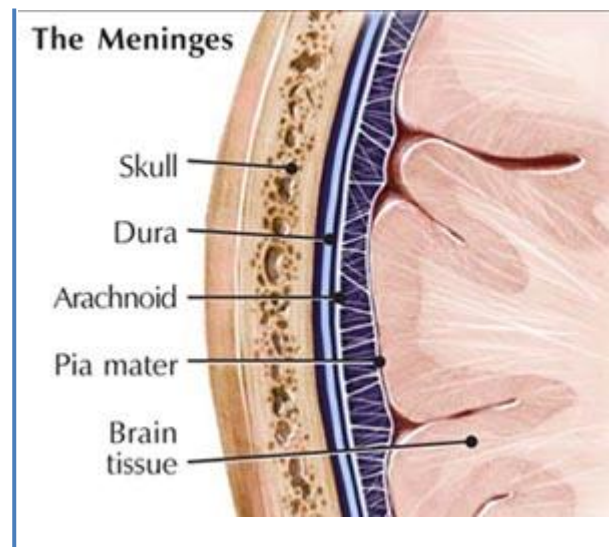
Australian First Aid would like to provide you with some basic but vital information on this subject as follows:

Meningococcal disease is a bacterial disease that is transmitted by the bacterium *Neisseria Meningitidis* (also called Meningococcus).

Meningococcal disease is a rapid and potentially fatal infection. It is most commonly occurs in children under 5 years of age. It causes two types of illnesses – Meningitis, which is an attack of the meninges (the linings of the brain), and meningococcal sepsis, which is a severe and deadly form of blood poisoning.

Recognition:

- Flu like infection (eg. headache, fever, nausea/vomiting)
- Intense headache
- Confusion
- Vomiting
- Neck stiffness
- Blotchy purplish rash
- Meningococcal infections occur most commonly during winter and is spread through respiratory secretions.
- It can occur in epidemics.



Transmission Modes:

Direct contact

Airborne droplets from infected persons

Incubation: Is commonly 3-4 days but can vary from 2-10 days.

Management:

Early recognition and prompt treatment with antibiotics can be life saving. Prompt treatment can also reduce the chances of extremities requiring amputation for survivors.

Vaccination is also available.

Seek urgent medical attention.