

Meningitis

Meningitis is an inflammation (swelling) of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord known as the meninges. This inflammation is usually caused by an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis is usually caused by bacteria or viruses, but can be a result of injury, cancer, or certain drugs. It is important to know the specific cause of meningitis because the treatment differs depending on the cause.

Sanofi Pasteur recently released a new immunisation against meningitis. MCV (Meningococcal Conjugated Vaccine) is not the same vaccine as the PCV (Pneumococcal Conjugated Vaccine). PCV is included in the compulsory immunisation schedule and is a very important vaccine. MCV covers other organisms that could cause meningitis. It is now included in the private immunisation schedule at 9 months with a booster at 12 months. Children older than 2 years get only one dose and no boosters are needed. Please, make sure, prevention is better than cure...