

Meningococcal group B vaccine

Liverpool School of
Tropical Medicine



The *Neisseria meningitidis* group B bacteria can cause serious, and sometimes life-threatening, infections such as meningitis (inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord) and sepsis (blood poisoning).

Meningococcal group B vaccine: Bexsero

Bexsero is a meningococcal group B vaccine. Bexsero contains four different components from the surface of the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis* group B.

Bexsero has been available since 1st September 2015 as part of the UK immunisation programme for children born on or after 1st May 2015.

Bexsero can usually be given at the same time as other vaccines including childhood immunisations.

Vaccine schedule

2 – 5 months of age: 2 doses, doses not less than 1 month apart, booster at 12 months of age.

6 – 11 months of age: 2 doses not less than 2 months apart. Booster one dose in the 2nd year of life at least 2 months after the last dose.

12 - 23 months of age: 2 doses, doses not less than 2 months apart, booster is one dose with an interval of 12 – 23 months after the 2nd dose.

2 – 10 years of age: 2 doses, not less than 2 months apart, it is unknown if booster is required.

11 years or older: 2 doses, not less than 1 month apart it is unknown if a booster is required.

You may not be able to receive the Bexsero vaccine if you:

- have a known allergy to kanamycin or any component in the vaccine
- have a known latex allergy
- have a temperature at the time the vaccine is to be given
- are pregnant or breast feeding

Adverse problems commonly reported following vaccination include:

- fever
- pain and tenderness at the injection site
- skin rash

For further detailed information about adverse problems following Bexsero vaccination see <http://www.medicines.org.uk/>

It is usually necessary to use paracetamol at an age appropriate dose after vaccination to reduce fever which is common in children following vaccination.

How effective is the vaccine?

The effectiveness of this vaccine trials has been determined by study of antibodies levels.

Bexsero given to those aged 2 months to less than 50 years of age developed antibodies to the four different components of the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis* group B. Antibodies were still present at least 1 year after vaccination. Further studies are awaited to determine long term effectiveness of this vaccine and the duration of the antibody response.

IMPORTANT

Bexsero is not considered to provide protection against all meningococcal group B types.

Neisseria meningitidis group B bacteria can cause meningitis. You should always be vigilant for the signs of meningitis and blood poisoning which include:

fever, vomiting, headache, stiff neck, sensitivity to light, confusion and skin rashes

For further information:

<http://www.meningitisnow.org/>