

"TEENAGE IMMUNIZATIONS"
"THINK MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINATION"
Protect Your Teen Against MENINGITIS

- ✓✓ CPT code for insurance is 90734
- Cost of vaccine is \$130.00 + administration fee
- Schedule of injections is: One now

Meningococcal disease is a rare, but potentially fatal bacterial infection that can cause meningitis-severe swelling of the brain and spinal cord or meningococemia-a serious blood infection.

The disease is spread through the exchange of fluids found in the respiratory system and throat (Such as saliva or "spit"), usually through close, personal contact with someone who is infected. It is thought that certain social behaviors involving close personal contact such as sharing drinking glasses or water bottles, kissing, smoking (active or passive), or being in crowded situations may put young people at greater risk for getting meningococcal disease.

The meningococcal disease is so dangerous because it often begins with symptoms that look like other common viral illnesses such as the flu. However, unlike more common infections, meningococcal disease can get worse very rapidly, and it can kill an otherwise healthy person in 48 hours or less. In individuals that survive the disease, permanent disabilities such as limb amputation, severe scarring, brain damage, and hearing loss can occur.

The meningococcal disease is serious and potentially life threatening, but up to 83% of the cases in adolescents and young adults are potentially preventable by a vaccine. The meningococcal vaccine (Menactra) has been demonstrated to be safe, and offers protection against 4 of the 5 most common strains of bacteria that cause the disease. At this time, only one immunization of Menactra is recommended.

Most major insurance companies are now paying for the Menactra vaccine if your policy has immunization coverage. If you are interested in having your child receive the Menactra immunization at the time of his/her sports/yearly wellness exam, please verify insurance coverage using the following information:

If you do not have insurance coverage for this immunization and are interested in having your child receive the immunization, please call the office at 712-655-2551 and ask about other options for receiving the immunization.