MAKING THE DECISION ON Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination

MenB vaccination is recommended:
- As a 2-dose series for healthy adolescents aged 16-23 years, based on shared clinical decision-making with the provider
- Routinely for patients ≥10 years of age at high risk of getting infected*

1. MenB disease is a rare, but serious illness
   - Although not common, MenB causes most of the meningococcal disease among US adolescents
   - The disease moves quickly and is deadly in about 10% of cases
   - The recommended MenACWY vaccine does not protect against MenB

2. MenB vaccines are available to help prevent MenB
   - Two MenB vaccines are available; both help prevent MenB disease
   - There is no cost for the vaccine for patients <19 years of age or for most patients ≥19 years with any type of health insurance
   - Most side effects are mild and include pain at the injection site, muscle aches, fatigue, and headache

3. There are multiple reasons to be vaccinated
   - The risk of MenB disease can be about 3 times higher for those attending college
   - MenB vaccines may help protect against MenB
   - Teens or young adults with chronic medical conditions may want to discuss MenB vaccination with their healthcare provider

*Persons at increased risk include those with persistent complement component deficiencies, those with anatomic or functional asplenia, or microbiologists routinely exposed to isolates of Neisseria meningitidis.
References:


4. Mbaeyi S. Serogroup B meningococcal vaccine booster doses. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Meeting; June 26-27, 2019; Atlanta, GA.


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