











MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Meningococcal disease is a medical emergency. It can kill in hours – so early treatment is vital. Don't wait for the rash! But be aware that there are two different sets of symptoms – depending on whether it takes the form of **meningitis**, or the more deadly **septicaemia** (poisoning of the blood). You may have several, or more, of the following symptoms:

SEPTICAEMIA	MENINGITIS
 Shivering, chills, cold hands/feet, rapid breathing	 Stiff or painful neck
 Pain in arms, legs, joints or stomach	 Dislike of bright lights
 Fever Nausea/vomiting Maybe diarrhoea	 Severe headache
 Lack of energy, drowsiness, loss of consciousness	 Drowsiness, loss of consciousness
 A pink or pinprick rash (develops to purple blotches)	 Same rash may develop in later stages



IN BABIES: Additional symptoms may include blotchy or pale skin, refusing to feed, fretfulness, a shrill or moaning cry, a floppy body, or a stiff body with jerky movements, a tense or bulging fontanelle (the soft spot on baby's head).



THE RASH: May start off as a spot, blister or pinpricks – later develops into purple bruise-like blotches.

Emergency treatment is vital!



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