

Patient Information

Menactra® Meningococcal (Groups A, C, Y and W-135) Polysaccharide Diphtheria Toxoid Conjugate Vaccine

Rx only

What is in this leaflet?

This leaflet provides information and answers common questions consumers may have about MENACTRA vaccine. It is not intended to take the place of talking with your health-care professional. Rather, it is meant to inform you so that together you can make the best possible choices concerning your health. Vaccines, like all other medications, have risks and benefits. Together with your health-care professional, you should consider this as well as other important information concerning MENACTRA vaccine.

What is MENACTRA vaccine and what does it do?

MENACTRA vaccine is given to protect persons 2 through 55 years of age against meningococcal disease. It allows the body to produce enough antibodies to provide a defense against the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease. As with any vaccine, vaccination with MENACTRA vaccine may not protect all of the people who get the vaccine.

- **Meningococcal disease** is a serious illness that is caused by bacteria. These bacteria may cause meningitis, an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings. They also can cause septicemia, a very serious blood infection. Although meningococcal disease is rare (about 1400 to 2800 cases are reported each year), onset and progression of the disease can be very rapid. Approximately 10% of cases of meningococcal disease are fatal despite medical treatment, and 11% to 19% of those who survive have permanent disabilities, such as limb amputation, hearing loss, and brain damage.

Who should receive MENACTRA vaccine?

MENACTRA vaccine is intended for persons 2 through 55 years of age.

Who should not receive MENACTRA vaccine?

- Any person who has a known hypersensitivity (severe allergic reaction) to any ingredient of the vaccine, including latex, which is used in the vial stopper, or to any person who has had a life-threatening reaction after getting a vaccine containing similar components
- Any person who has been previously diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS)
- Children younger than 2 years of age or adults older than 55 years of age

When should extra care be used?

The health-care professional should make sure the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks when recommending MENACTRA vaccine for:

- Women who are pregnant or nursing

Women who are pregnant or become aware that they were pregnant when they received MENACTRA vaccine should contact their health-care professional or Sanofi Pasteur Inc. at 1-800-822-2463.

How is MENACTRA vaccine administered?

A single dose of MENACTRA vaccine is injected into the muscle of the upper arm (preferably) of persons 2 through 55 years of age.

It should be noted that clinical studies have been conducted to show that MENACTRA vaccine is safe when given at the same time as Td (tetanus and diphtheria) and typhoid vaccines.

You should tell your health-care professional if you or your child:

- Has been previously diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) or any brain disorder
- Is pregnant or nursing

This information should not take the place of talking with your health-care professional about MENACTRA vaccine.

What are possible side effects of MENACTRA vaccine?

While side effects from vaccine administration are always possible, people receiving MENACTRA vaccine may not experience any side effects at all.

The most common local side effects with MENACTRA vaccine include pain, tenderness, redness, hardness, and swelling at the site of injection. Systemic side effects include headache, fatigue, weakness, body aches, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. These side effects usually clear up within a few days. If events continue or become severe, tell your doctor. There is a potential for an increased chance of Guillain-Barré syndrome following vaccination. Other adverse events are possible. Please consult with your health-care professional.

What ingredients are present in MENACTRA vaccine?

MENACTRA vaccine contains noninfectious meningococcal A, C, Y, and W-135 polysaccharides that are attached to a diphtheria toxoid protein carrier. Sodium chloride and sodium phosphate salts are also present in each dose.

For more information about MENACTRA vaccine, talk to your doctor or health-care professional. You may also visit www.MENACTRA.com.

This information is based on the MENACTRA vaccine full Prescribing Information dated October 2007.

Manufactured by:
Sanofi Pasteur Inc.
Swiftwater, PA 18370 USA

Product Information
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sanofi pasteur