

MENINGITIS

Always remember to call 000 in case of an emergency

IF EVER IN DOUBT CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF MENINGITIS & ACT QUICKLY IF THEY ARISE

CHILDREN & ADULTS

- Bad Headaches (Usually the first symptom)
- Stiff Neck (Unable to flex neck forwards)
- High Fever (Fever will appear suddenly)
IF THE ABOVE THREE SIGNS ARE NOT PRESENT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THE PATIENT HAS MENINGITIS
- Pain in Joints (Particularly in the knees)
- Fitting (Can be frightening to witness)
- Drowsiness (General lethargy, overly tired)
- Vomiting (This can be mis-diagnosed)
- Light & Noise aversion (A common symptom)

INFANTS

- Leg pain (A common symptom in infants)
- Neck retracted & arched back (Unable to passively lie flat)
- Unwell/Irritable (Their hands & feet feel cold)
- Difficult to wake (Lethargic, overly sleepy)
- Bulging Skull (Most often in cases with infant under 6 months)
- Pale, discoloured skin (Similar to a rash)
- Vomiting (Also refuses to eat food)
- Cold extremities (A common symptom)

Meningitis is simply inflamed membrane surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Infections carried by viruses & bacteria are a main cause of Meningitis and can be a life-threatening illness because of this close proximity to the brain and spinal cord... 2004 statistics show that in developed countries, cases of Meningitis are as low as 10-25 in 100,000. It is however an issue that if missed can still easily result in death, especially in young children!