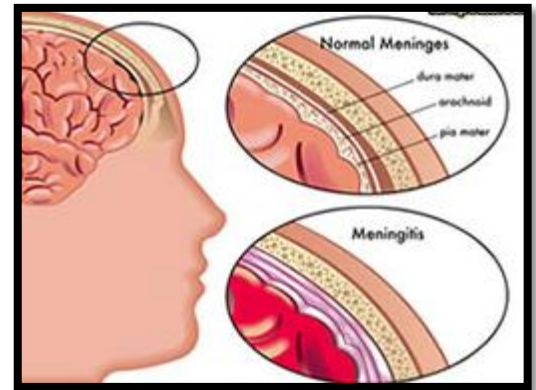


Meningitis

Meningitis is an inflammation (swelling) of the protective membrane covering the brain and spinal cord known as the meninges. This inflammation is usually caused by an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

Meningitis is usually caused by bacteria or viruses, but can be a result of injury, cancer or certain drugs. It is important to know the specific cause of meningitis because the treatment differs depending on the cause.



Bacterial Meningitis

What is bacterial meningitis?

Bacterial meningitis is inflammation of the lining that surrounds and protects your brain and spinal cord. The inflammation is caused by a bacterial infection and can be life threatening.

What increases my risk for bacterial meningitis?

The bacteria are found in the mouth, throat, or nose. They are spread from an infected person to another by coughing, kissing, or sharing food or drinks. It can also spread from an ear, nose, throat, sinus, or brain infection. A head injury or head surgery may also spread the infection. Risk for bacterial meningitis is increased if person is older than 60 years or between 15 and 24 years. Diabetes, cancer, or an organ transplant also increases risk.

Signs and symptoms of bacterial meningitis-

Any of the following may develop within hours or days:

- A severe headache, stiff neck, and a fever
- Neck pain
- Nausea or vomiting
- Red or purple rash
- Eye pain when you look into bright lights
- Sleepiness or confusion

Diagnosis of bacterial meningitis -

- Blood tests
- CT Scan or MRI
- A lumbar puncture
- A throat culture

Treatment of bacterial meningitis -

- Antibiotics
- Steroids
- Seizure medicine
- Acetaminophen
- NSAIDs

Prevention bacterial meningitis-

- Wash the hands often
- Get vaccine

Reference-Micromedex Solutions