Not an actual patient.

"I THOUGHT HE WAS PROTECTED ..."

B THE ONE TO HELP STOP B

DEVIN, AGE 18
College freshman

Janelle was excited but a little nervous about her son going off to college. She thought she'd crossed everything off his college shopping list: His bedding for the twin XL bed, a small refrigerator, and a giant box of his favorite protein bars for his pickup basketball games. Janelle also made sure Devin had received all the vaccinations his pediatrician recommended.

One month after the start of school, Janelle received information from the student health center at Devin's school informing her that a student on campus had contracted meningococcal group B disease (MenB). Initially, Janelle believed the meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) Devin had received would help protect him. She didn't realize there are 5 common groups of the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease in the United States.[1]

MCV4 COVERS MENINGOCOCCAL GROUPS A, C, Y, AND W. IT DOESN'T HELP PROTECT AGAINST MenB.[2]

ACWY | B

50% of all meningococcal disease cases, in persons 17 to 23 years of age, in the US are caused by serogroup B[3]

Almost **1 in 4 adolescents** may be asymptomatic carriers of the bacteria. **MenB is unpredictable**[4]

Approximately **1 in 10** MenB cases results in death[5]

HEARING LOSS | BRAIN DAMAGE | SPEECH PROBLEMS | VISION LOSS | AMPUTATIONS AND MOTOR IMPAIRMENT | SKIN SCARRING

For those who survive, it can cause **permanent** complications.[6]

A parent who Janelle had met at orientation called and explained that prior to 2014, there was no vaccine for MenB.[2] She encouraged Janelle to call Devin's pediatrician and ask specifically whether he had received a MenB vaccine. After the pediatrician told her that Devin had not received a MenB vaccine, Janelle called Devin, and together they agreed on a plan that would allow him to get vaccinated at the pharmacy at his school.

Typical adolescent and young adult behaviors can promote the transmission of meningococcal disease. These behaviors include[7-10]:

Close-quartered living and group hangouts

Sharing food, drinks, and utensils

Kissing

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that a MenB vaccine series may be given to individuals aged 16 through 23 years to provide short-term protection against most strains of MenB disease. The preferred age for MenB vaccination is 16 through 18 years. The decision to vaccinate should be made at the individual level by health care providers.[1]

Are you sure your college student has been vaccinated against MenB?

Until 2014, there was no vaccine approved for MenB in the US. Even if your child received a meningococcal vaccine (MCV4), which covers meningococcal groups A, C, Y, and W, they may be unprotected against MenB.[2]

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TALK TO YOUR CHILD'S DOCTOR.
VISIT WWW.MEETMENINGITIS.COM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MenB.

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