Quadrivalent (ACWY) conjugate vaccine

Second para, fifth line, Southern et al., 2008 reference to read Southern et al., 2009

Although the vaccine is not yet licensed for infants, data show a better antibody response to all serogroups after two doses of conjugate vaccine (Snape et al., 2008; Perrett et al., 2009) than seen with the plain polysaccharide vaccine (Borrow, 2009); the response to serogroup C is comparable with that seen with the monovalent MenC conjugate vaccine (Southern et al., 2008) (Southern et al., 2009). Based on this and the experience with other conjugate vaccines, immunity is expected to be higher, longer-lasting and confer less risk of immunological tolerance than the plain vaccine. For this reason, conjugate vaccine is recommended in preference to plain vaccine in children under five years of age.

Primary immunisation

Infants under one year of age

The primary course of MenC vaccination consists of two doses, with an interval of one month between each dose. The recommended age for vaccination is at three and four months of age. If the primary course is interrupted it should be resumed but not repeated (see below). The currently available MenC vaccines are now licensed for use in a two-dose schedule from two months of age. Although the licence states that two doses should be given at least two months apart, evidence from UK studies shows that immunogenicity is adequate in children immunised at a one-month interval (Southern et al., 2006) (Southern et al., 2009).

Management of contacts

For prophylaxis, the use of single dose ciprofloxacin is now recommended in preference to rifampicin, particularly because it is a single dose and is readily available in high street pharmacies. Ciprofloxacin as a single dose of 500mg may be given for adults (250mg for children aged five to 12 years and 125mg for those aged one month to four years). Alternative options are discussed at

Amended 14 March 2012
These vaccines are supplied by Movianto UK (Tel: 01234 248631) as part of the national childhood immunisation programme.

In Scotland, supplies should be obtained from the local childhood vaccine holding centres. Details of these are available from Scottish Healthcare Supplies (Tel: 0141 282 2240).

### Quadrivalent ACWY vaccines

- **ACWY Vax (Quadrivalent ACWY polysaccharide vaccine)** – manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (Tel: 0808 100 9997).
- **Menveo® (Quadrivalent conjugate ACWY vaccine)** – manufactured by Novartis® (Tel: 08457 451500).

Quadrivalent (ACWY) conjugate vaccine (Menveo®) for use in contacts of cases of outbreaks serogroup A, W135 or Y infections, may be accessed through:

- Health Protection Agency, Centre for Infections (Tel: 020 8200 6868)

### References


Amended 14 March 2012