

Meningococcal Meningitis ACWY Vaccine

Indications for use of vaccine

Meningococcal meningitis vaccine should be considered for

- Travellers who will be living or working with local people in an area of risk
- Long stay and rural travellers visiting areas of risk
- Travellers visiting an area of risk during an outbreak

Requirements for Saudi Arabia

All pilgrims visiting Saudi Arabia for the purpose of Hajj or Umrah require proof of vaccination against meningitis ACWY. Children between the ages of six months and two years need two doses of vaccine with an interval of at least three months between them.

[Meningitis ACWY Guidelines for Travellers to the Hajj or Umrah Pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia](#)

Availability

ACWY Vax is an inactivated, polysaccharide vaccine manufactured in the UK by GlaxoSmithKline.

Meningitis A and C (Mengivac) vaccine is manufactured by Aventis Pasteur MSD in the UK but is no longer recommended for travel.

Conjugate meningitis C vaccine, manufactured by Wyeth, Baxter or Chiron, is available and recommended as part of the British national vaccination schedule. Three doses are given at two, three and four months of age, but not specifically recommended for travellers.

Vaccine Schedule

Vaccine	Manufacturer	Schedule	Length of Protection	Minimum age
ACWY Vax	GlaxoSmithKline	Single dose	Up to 5 years for adults and children from age 5 years A second dose should be offered after 2-3 years to children first vaccinated at less than 5 years of age if at high risk	2 years and over. Can be given from 2 months of age, although the protection rates against serotypes C, W135 and Y are lower and decline more rapidly.

Contraindications

- Current febrile illness
- Allergy to constituents of the vaccine
- History of hypersensitivity following a previous dose of ACWY Vax

Interactions with Conjugate C meningococcal meningitis vaccine

If a child has recently received Men C conjugate vaccine, an interval of at least 2 weeks (or longer where possible) should be allowed before administration of the meningitis ACWY vaccine. This allows some response to be made to the Men C conjugate vaccine before a further dose is given.

Adverse Events

Adverse events following meningococcal vaccine are most commonly mild and transient. They include erythema, induration, tenderness or pain at the injection site. Very rarely headache, fatigue and fever have been reported. Miscellaneous neurological reactions have been reported rarely, but no causal relationship to ACWY Vax has been established.