

## Comparing use and effects of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine and Meningococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine

	CONJUGATE VACCINE	POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE
<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Meningococcal Conjugate (MenCCV)</b> Meningitec (Wyeth) Menjugate (CSL) NeisVac (Baxter)	<b>Meningococcal Polysaccharide (4vMenPV)</b> Mencevax ACWY (GSK) Menomune (Aventis Pasteur)
<b>Use</b>	Provides protection against serogroup C only. Can be given from 6 weeks of age.	Provides protection against serogroup A, C, W135& Y. Given from 2 years of age.
<b>Precautions</b> <i>(On occasions when both conjugate and polysaccharide are recommended)</i>	Where the conjugate vaccine is given first, a period of 2 weeks should lapse before the polysaccharide is given.	Where the polysaccharide vaccine is given first, a period of 6 months should lapse before the conjugate is given.
<b>Effects</b>	Induces antibodies with infants receiving 3 doses 1 month after 3 <sup>rd</sup> dose. Induces sufficient antibody response in children over 12 months after a single dose. In older children seroconversion increases with age. Improved antibody response especially in young children. The induction of immunological memory probably results in long term protection. Antibody concentrations decline rapidly after primary immunisation in infants and children. Primary series induces immunological memory.	Induces antibodies in 10-14 days in 90% of recipients over the age of 2 years. There is little or no response to serogroup C component before 18 months of age. There is little response to serogroup A before 3 months of age. Immunity decreases during the first 3 years following a single dose of vaccine in infants and younger children. Clinical protection persists for at least 3 years in school children and adults. The duration of immunity is further complicated by the induction of immunological hyporesponsiveness to the serogroup C component following repeated vaccination. Revaccination with polysaccharide vaccine results in reduced antibody compared with primary immunisation
<b>Cost</b>	Varies depending on dispensing outlet \$70 - \$90.	Varies depending on dispensing outlet \$34.40 plus GST.

Reference: NHMRC The Australian Immunisation Handbook 8th Edition

For further information phone SAICU on (08) 8226-7177 or talk to your local Immunisation Coordinator in Division of General Practice.