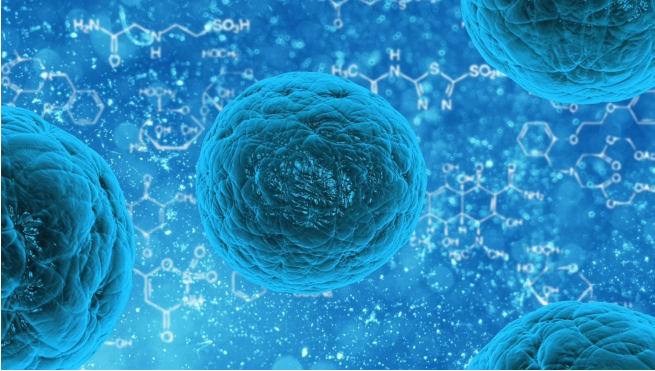


Trial shows better protection against meningococcal infection in hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients

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The team in the Hematology Department at Henri Mondor AP-HP Hospital, coordinated by Dr. Christine Robin, and scientists from the Institut Pasteur (the Invasive Bacterial Infections Unit led by Professor Muhamed-Kheir Taha) recently studied protection against meningococcal infection in patients who had received hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. The results were published in *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* on July 4, 2022.

Meningococcal infection is responsible for severe, often fatal diseases such as meningitis. Patients who have undergone [hematopoietic stem cell transplantation](#) (HSCT), for example to treat leukemia, are 30 times more likely than the [general population](#) to develop these severe infections.

The most recent meningococcal B vaccine (4CMenB, Bexsero) was recommended in France in 2021 for infants under the age of 2 and people at high risk, including HSCT recipients.

In this trial, the research team set out to determine

the immunogenic potential of the vaccine in HSCT recipients.

Forty [patients](#) between the ages of 31 and 68, who received HSCT between 6 months and 13 years prior to the trial, were included. They were vaccinated with 4CMenB (2 doses 2 months apart).

One month after the second dose, 90% of patients showed antibody levels correlated with protection; nine months later the proportion had fallen to 62%. No severe adverse events were observed.

The trial supports the inclusion of vaccination against meningococcal group B, alongside vaccination against groups A, C, W and Y, in the vaccination schedule of these patients from 6 [months](#) after their transplant to improve their protection.

There are several meningococcal groups and therefore several vaccines recommended for HSCT patients. Evaluation of another meningococcal B vaccine, Trumenba, in HSCT recipients could be the next stage in research into protection against meningococcal [infection](#).

More information: Christine Robin et al, Immunogenicity and safety of the meningococcal B recombinant (4CMenB) vaccine in allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation recipients, *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* (2022). [DOI: 10.1016/j.cmi.2022.06.024](#)

Provided by Pasteur Institute

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