

MENINGITIS - SYMPTOMS, TREATMENT

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Abstract:

Meningitis is an inflammatory process of the brain and/or spinal cord of infectious etiology. Clinical signs of meningitis include a stiff neck (contraction of the neck muscles, the patient's head is pulled back and it is difficult to return to a normal position), severe headache, body hyperthermia, impaired consciousness, voice and light hand irritants include hypersensitivity. Meningitis is manifested as a primary form in response to infection of the shell or as a secondary form caused by complications of other diseases. Meningitis is a disease with a high mortality rate, disabling patients, incurable disorders and organ dysfunction.

Meningitis disease

WHAT IS MENINGITIS?

Meningitis is a serious disease that involves inflammation of the brain and/or spinal cord. Shells cover the tissues of the brain and spinal canal.

There are two types of shells in the human body: soft and hard. Depending on the type of tissue affected by the infection, the location of the inflammatory process is divided into:

Leptomeningitis, the soft shell is damaged and the most common form;

Pachymeningitis is an inflammation of the hard meninges, this type occurs in approximately 2 out of every 100 cases of the disease;

Panmeningitis is diagnosed when both meninges are affected.

Usually, when the diagnosis of meningitis is made in the medical sense, inflammation of the soft brain shells is meant.

Meningitis is one of the most dangerous brain diseases, causing serious complications, causing health problems, permanent disability, developmental disorders. The death rate is high.



Symptoms of meningitis were recorded by Hippocrates and medieval doctors. For a long time, it was believed that the origin of the inflammatory process in the brain was due to tuberculosis, which caused the death of millions of people.

Before the discovery of antibiotics, meningitis had a mortality rate of 95%. The discovery of penicillin significantly reduced the death rate of the disease.

Today, there are modern synthetic drugs for the treatment of meningitis, and vaccines against the most common pathogens - pneumococcal, meningococcal and hemophilic bacilli - are used to prevent many forms of the disease.

PREVALENCE OF MENINGITIS, SEASONALITY OF THE DISEASE, RISK GROUPS

The disease occurs worldwide, but there is a strong correlation between the prosperity of the country and the incidence of meningitis. Thus, in Africa, Southeast Asia, Central and South America, meningitis is diagnosed 40 times more often than in European countries.

In Russia and European countries, bacterial etiology meningitis is 3 cases per 100,000 population and viral meningitis is 10 cases per 100,000 population. The tuberculosis form of meningitis depends on the number of patients and the quality of care provided for the treatment of the main disease, it is worth noting that the influence of the second factor is much greater than the first.

The seasonality of the disease and the annual periodicity of epidemics are noted. The most characteristic period for meningitis is from November to April, which occurs due to changes in air temperature, dietary restrictions and vitamin deficiency, and gathering people in poorly ventilated rooms due to cold weather. Due to the characteristics of the body and social reasons, the risk group includes children under 5 years old and men aged 25-30 years.

Primary meningitis, which begins as a disease of infectious etiology, is caused by pathogenic microorganisms. Viruses and bacteria that trigger the development of meningitis are transmitted in various ways, the most common of which are:

Air-droplet: spreading the pathogen into the air through mucus and saliva during coughing and sneezing;

Household contacts: direct contact with the patient or carrier of the disease, use of the same household items (dishes, towels, toothbrush);

Through the oral-fecal route when hygiene rules are not followed: taking food with unwashed hands, eating unprocessed, unwashed vegetables, fruits, greens, etc.



Hematogenous: transmission of meningitis causative agents (usually bacterial, but also viral, protozoal, and other forms) through the blood, spread of the infection in the patient's body from existing foci to the cerebral cortex through the blood;
Transmission of the infection to the fetus through the placenta during development in the womb, as well as during the passage through the birth canal or through the amniotic fluid;

Oral: Ingestion of water contaminated with meningitis agents (accidental ingestion in water reservoirs, public swimming pools that are not disinfected, drinking contaminated water), etc.

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