Knowledge Gaps in Vaccination Against Meningococcal Meningitis

Two national online consumer polls gauge the knowledge edge of and attitudes related to meningitis*

Meningococcal meningitis is a rare but aggressive bacterial infection that can be fatal or cause serious life-long disability within 24 hours of onset of symptoms.1,2

Parents

Less than half of parents say they have talked to their child about how the disease is spread3

83% of parents report wanting their children to be immunized against all vaccine preventable serogroups of meningococcal disease4

Of those parents whose child has been vaccinated against meningococcal disease, 88% don’t know which serogroups of bacteria their child is vaccinated against1

Five vaccine-preventable serogroups (A, C, W, Y and B) historically have caused the majority of cases in the U.S. Serogroup B accounts for about one-third of U.S. cases4

Teens/Young

Less than half of young adults know that meningococcal disease can lead to serious health complications, which may include hospitalization, hearing loss or amputation5

Only 22% know that it is possible to die within 24 hours of onset of early symptoms3

In the U.S., teens/young adults are at greater risk for contracting the disease due to increased likelihood of being in community settings that promote close contact with people6

One in five survivors of meningococcal disease will have long-term consequences, including deafness, nervous system problems, brain damage or loss of limbs7

About one in 10 of people infected with meningococcal disease will die8

References:
8. The two online polls were conducted by Harris Interactive and Diagnostic, Inc. Effective March 3, 2015, GSK completed the purchase of Novartis’ vaccines business (excluding its influenza vaccines business) in the U.S.