

Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b) Disease

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Hib Disease

What is Hib disease?

Hib disease is a serious illness (infection) caused by bacteria (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b) in young children.

Which bacteria will cause and how it spreads Hib disease?

It is a bacteria *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib). It causes diseases like bloodstream infections, arthritis, meningitis, pneumonia, cellulitis, arthritis, ear infections and other infections in the body. *Haemophilus influenzae* type b bacteria live in the individual throat, nose and move to other parts of body. Generally, it does not cause harm to the person who are infected. Severity of this disease will be mild to severe infections. Period of time that lives in the person body is not yet known.

Hib spreads through respiratory tract via droplets. It spreads to the people who are closely in contact to the infected person.

Hib disease occurs mostly in babies, younger children (<5years) and older people (>60years).

Symptoms

Symptoms include with type of infection

Pneumonia

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Sweating
- Pain in chest
- Muscle pain or aches
- Excessive tiredness
- Headache

Meningitis

- Fever
- Headache
- Stiff neck
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Photophobia
- Altered mental status
- Mood swings

Bloodstream Infection

- Fever
- Chills
- Excessive tiredness
- Pain in stomach
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Anxiety
- Difficulty in breathing
- Altered mental status
- Mood swings

Diagnosis

Diagnosis of this disease can be done with laboratory tests. Few common tests include blood sample test or spinal fluid.

Treatment

Treatment for this infection like bronchitis or ear infections can be treated with antibiotics as a course for 10 days. If the infection is severe, other treatment like breathing support, Medication for low blood pressure, Wound care for damaged part on the body.

Antibiotics, such as ampicillin, cefotaxime, or ceftriaxone, with chloramphenicol, generally used to treat serious infections. Rifampin is used in some conditions as preventive treatment for persons who have been exposed to Hib disease.

Complications

Complication can see rarely. Infection in blood results in loss of limbs. Meningitis causes brain infection or loss of hearing.

Prevention

Hib disease can be prevented by vaccine. Vaccine for Hib does not prevent disease cause by other types of *Haemophilus influenzae*.

This infection may recur in future.

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CDC recommends Hib vaccination for younger children <5 years old. Children need multiple (3 or 4) doses of a Hib vaccine. CDC recommends dose at the following ages:

- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6 months (if needed; depends on brand)

- 12 through 15 months

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