



Impact of the Meningococcal C Vaccination Programme

December and January are often the months associated with peak meningococcal activity. The meningococcal C vaccination programme started in the autumn of 1999 but it is only this winter that the full impact of the vaccination programme can be assessed. There has been a marked decrease in reported Group C infections in recent months.

Last winter was particularly busy with 24 cases (9 Group C) in December 1999 and 45 (11 Group C) reported during January 2000 making a total of 20 Group C infections for this two month period. In contrast, in December 2000 there were 10 cases (2 Group C) and in January only 8 cases (2 Group C). This represents a

reduction of 80% in Group C cases. A similar marked decrease is noted when comparing Group C cases reported between July-December 1999 (21 cases) and July-December 2000 (4 cases). To date there have been no cases of meningococcal C infection reported in a vaccinated individual.

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This is very clear evidence of the impact of the vaccination programme which has undoubtedly reduced morbidity and mortality from meningococcal C infection.

Enhanced surveillance of meningococcal disease in Northern Ireland

From 1 to 31 January 2001, a total of 8 cases of meningococcal disease have been reported to CDSC through the program of enhanced surveillance of meningococcal disease (see Table 1).

Five (62.5%) of these cases have been laboratory confirmed to date. Two (40.0%) of the laboratory confirmed cases were due to serogroup C infections in a 22-year old female and a four year old female, and 3 (60.0%) were due to serogroup B infections in a 14 year

old male, a 14 year old female and a seven month old male. The 22 year old female had not been vaccinated with the MenC vaccine. The seven month old male had received the MenC vaccine and the vaccine status of the others is not known. Preadmission antibiotics had been prescribed in three cases.

For the period 1 to 31 January 2000, a total of 45 cases of

meningococcal disease were notified to CDSC through the program of enhanced surveillance. Of this total, thirty-one (68.8%) were laboratory confirmed as 11 (35.4%) serogroup C infections, 18 (58.1%) serogroup B infections and 2 (6.5%) infections due to other serogroups.

Four of the confirmed infections in January 2001 presented with septicaemia, and one with meningitis. No deaths due to meningococcal disease occurred in January (see Table 2).

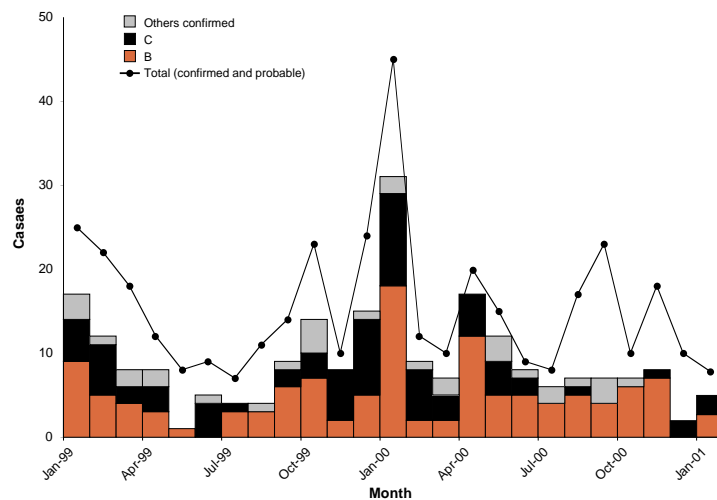
Table 1: Meningococcal disease by Health and Social Services Board, Northern Ireland, January 2001

HSSB	Confirmed			Not confirmed	Total
	B	C	Other and ungrouped		
E	1	0	0	1	2
N	0	1	0	1	2
S	0	0	0	0	0
W	2	1	0	1	4
Total	3	2	0	3	8

Table 2: Meningococcal disease: case and death by age, Northern Ireland, January 2001

Age group	Confirmed			Not confirmed	Incidence per 100,000 population	Death
	B	C	Other and ungrouped			
< 1	1	0	0	1	8.6	0
1-4	0	1	0	2	3.1	0
5-14	2	0	0	0	0.8	0
15-24	0	1	0	0	0.4	0
>24	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
?	0	0	0	0		0
Total	3	2	0	3	0.5	0

Figure 1: Monthly cases of meningococcal disease from January 1999 to January 2001



Laboratory Reports

Foodborne and Gastro-intestinal Tract Infections: Laboratory Reports, Weeks 01-04

Salmonella (other than *enteritidis* or *typhimurium*):

Salmonella sp 2

Comment:

Four of the seven reports of SRSV were associated with a hospital outbreak in the Western Board.

	Number of Reports received		Cumulative total	
	01/01-04	00/01-04	01/01-04	00/01-04
<i>Campylobacter</i>	38	31	38	31
<i>C. difficile</i> Toxin	19	30	19	30
<i>E. coli</i> 0157	0	3	0	3
<i>Salmonella</i> total	12	7	12	7
<i>S. enteritidis</i> (PT 4)	7 (5)	4 (4)	7 (5)	4 (4)
<i>S. typhimurium</i> (DT 104)	3 (1)	3 (2)	3 (1)	3 (2)
<i>Salmonella</i> other serotypes	2	0	2	0
<i>Shigella</i>	0	1	0	1
Cryptosporidium	9	6	9	6
<i>Giardia</i>	0	1	0	1
Adenovirus (faeces)	12	9	12	9
Enterovirus (faeces)	0	2	0	2
Rotavirus	12	18	12	18
SRSV	7	0	7	0

Bacteraemia: Laboratory Reports, Weeks 01-04

	2001/01-04	2000/01-04
Gram negative bacteria		
<i>Acinetobacter sp</i>	2	2
<i>Enterobacter sp</i>	3	3
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	21	36
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	1	2
<i>Haemophilus sp</i>	1	0
<i>Klebsiella sp</i>	2	4
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	5	22
<i>Neisseria sp</i>	0	1
<i>Proteus sp</i>	3	8
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	1	6
<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	1	2
<i>Serratia sp</i>	2	1
Other gram negative bacteria	0	3
<hr/>		
Totals	42	90
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Gram positive bacteria		
Staphylococci:		
<i>S. aureus</i>	17	13
coagulase negative	19	24
Streptococci and enterococci:		
group A	3	1
group B	2	0
group C	0	0
group G	0	1
<i>Enterococcus sp</i>	6	12
α- and non-haemolytic	5	6
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	7	15
Other gram positive bacteria	0	1
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Totals	59	73
<hr/>		
Anaerobic bacteria		
Anaerobic cocci	0	1
<i>Bacteroids sp</i>	2	0
<i>Clostridium sp</i>	1	2
Other anaerobic bacteria		
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Totals	3	3
<hr/>		
Grand Total	104	166

The figure in brackets represents those reports for which an association with intravenous drug use was noted.

Comment:

Hepatitis B

There were 2 reports of Hepatitis B during the first four weeks of 2001; both patients were male. One was 70 years of age and the other was 38 years of age. No risk factor information was recorded.

Hepatitis: Laboratory Reports Weeks 01-04

	Number of Reports received		Cumulative total	
	01/01-04	00/01-04	01/01-04	00/01-04
Hepatitis A	0	7	0	7
Hepatitis B	2	0	2	0
Hepatitis C	4	5 (3)	4	5 (3)

Hepatitis C

There were 4 reports of Hepatitis C; 3 males and 1 female. Two patients were aged 45-60 years and

the other two were aged 61-79 years. No risk factor information was recorded.

Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemias: Laboratory Reports, Weeks 01-04

Total reports of <i>S. aureus</i>		Reports of MRSA (%)		Reports of MSSA (%)	
01/01-04	00/01-04	01/01-04	00/01-04	01/01-04	00/01-04
17	13	7 (41%)	6 (46%)	10 (59%)	7 (54%)

Infectious Disease Notifications: 2001 Weeks 01-04

Disease	Board 01/01-04				Northern Ireland	
	E	N	S	W	Total 2001 01-04	Total 2000 01-04
Acute encephalitis/ Meningitis: bacterial	2	0	0	2	4	12
Acute encephalitis/ Meningitis: viral	3	0	0	1	4	4
Chickenpox	195	121	42	43	401	323
Dysentery	1	1	0	0	2	0
Food Poisoning	36	37	7	18	98	65
Gastroenteritis (Under 2 years)	56	6	6	15	83	59
Hepatitis A	2	0	0	0	0	4
Hepatitis B	0	0	1	0	3	2
Hepatitis Unspecified: Viral	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legionnaires' Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	0	1	0	0	1	2
Measles	3	1	3	2	9	8
Meningococcal Septicaemia	5	4	0	2	11	30
Mumps	3	10	1	145	159	27
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rubella	1	0	1	1	3	8
Scarlet Fever	17	5	2	1	25	26
TB (Pulmonary)	1	0	0	0	1	6
TB (Non-Pulmonary)	2	0	0	0	2	3
Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	3	3	4
TOTAL	327	186	63	233	809	583

Contributing Laboratories

Altnagelvin	Mater
Antrim	Musgrave Park
Belfast City	Regional Mycology
Belvoir Park	Regional Virus
Causeway	Royal Victoria
Craigavon	South Tyrone
Daisyhill	Tyrone County
Erne	Ulster

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Monthly numbers are provisional and should not be used to indicate trends.

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