

MENINGITIS can KILL in **4** hours



You may have read about the news in the papers today about the positive progress being made in the development of a Meningitis B vaccine.

Pharmaceutical company Novartis has released the latest data supporting their potential new vaccine against Meningitis B. These data show that the vaccine has the potential to offer protection against 80 per cent of 1,000 strains collected from across Europe and to work safely alongside other vaccines.

It's encouraging news, especially for those of you who have lost loved ones or been personally affected, and have worked tirelessly to raise funds for our research to add value to the global understanding of Meningitis B vaccines. As you can see in my quote in our press release, we are obviously incredibly hopeful that this vaccine will be successful. However, our scientific advisors have advised us that there are still a lot of questions to be answered about the vaccine so it is important for us to keep channeling funds into our vital research.

If successful, it is predicted that the vaccine mentioned in the press today will cover around 73% of circulating strains of Meningitis B in the UK. The way this prediction has been calculated is incredibly complex due to the vaccine being the first of its kind. Nobody yet knows how accurate this prediction will be. We will only find this out if and when it is introduced. If it is accurate and everything goes to plan, around 30 per cent of strains causing Meningitis B cases won't be guarded against and precious lives will still be at risk.

This is a first generation vaccine which, if successful, will need constant monitoring and improvement. It is also important to continue our research into preventing other forms of meningitis, such as Streptococcal group B for which there is still no vaccine and causes 800 cases per year. The current pneumococcal vaccine also only covers 13 out of 92 strains so there is a lot more work to do in this area.

Our scientific medical advisory panel are saying there's still a long way to go until all forms of the disease are eradicated, so we shouldn't take our feet off the pedal yet. Until that time, I hope, like me, that you will be extremely heartened by this very positive development but will continue to raise funds until we are certain that this dreadful disease has been beaten.

Steve Dayman - Chief Executive, meningitis UK

We try to support Ronald McDonald House.
Please visit their website - www.rmhbristol.com.

Also Meningitis UK.

Please also take time to visit their website - www.meningitisuk.org

Help us to keep more families together by supporting
our Search 4 a Vaccine Campaign.