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# MENINGOCOCCAL A CONJUGATE VACCINE

**MenAfriVac** lyophilized

## DESCRIPTION

MenAfriVac (Meningococcal A Conjugate vaccine) is a lyophilized vaccine of purified meningococcal A polysaccharide covalently bound to tetanus toxoid (TT), which acts as a carrier protein. The vaccine consists of purified group-specific bacterial polysaccharide from *Neisseria meningitidis* group A.

The TT is prepared by extraction, ammonium sulfate purification, and formalin inactivation of the toxin from cultures of *Clostridium tetani*. The vaccine meets the WHO requirements when tested by the methods outlined in WHO, TRS 962 (2011).

The MenAfriVac is provided as a 1/10 doses presentation consisting of a vial and an ampoule. Each vial contains a lyophilised powder of meningococcal group A polysaccharide conjugated to tetanus toxoid protein and excipients. Each ampoule contains the diluent with aluminium phosphate as adjuvant (the amount does not exceed 1.25 mg per single human dose) and thiomersal (0.01%) as preservative. The diluent is a white slightly opaque homogeneous suspension presented in a 0.5/5 ml ampoule.

The lyophilised conjugate is reconstituted just before use with the contents of one ampoule of diluent to obtain 1/10 doses of the final vaccine in a white homogeneous suspension. A single dose of vaccine is equivalent to 0.5 ml of the reconstituted suspension.

Each dose of 0.5 ml contains: Meningococcal A polysaccharide 10 mcg, TT (carrier protein) 10 to 33 mcg and excipients: mannitol, sucrose and Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane.

## INDICATIONS

MenAfriVac is indicated for active immunization against invasive meningococcal disease caused by meningococcus group A only. It does not protect against other forms of invasive disease including purulent meningitis caused by other meningococcus groups (such as Groups B, C, W135, Y), by *Haemophilus influenzae type b*, by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, etc. It also does not protect against meningitis caused by other organisms such as viruses, fungi, mycobacteria etc.

MenAfriVac is recommended for routine immunization of children beginning at 1 year of age, adolescents and adults up to 29 years of age, for the prevention of invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* Group A. Children from 12 months of age, adolescents and adults up to 29 years of age should receive a single 0.5 mL dose. The safety and immunogenicity of a booster dose has been evaluated in children 2-3 years of age old yet the need for revaccination has not been established.

Subjects who have previously received a Meningococcal A polysaccharide containing vaccine can be vaccinated with MenAfriVac. It is particularly recommended for subjects at risk, for example those living in or visiting areas where the disease is epidemic or highly endemic. It is also recommended for subjects living in closed communities and close contacts of patients with disease caused by meningococcus Group A, persons with laboratory or industrial exposure to *N. meningitidis* aerosols.

## DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The vaccine is for intramuscular use only. MenAfriVac (Meningococcal A Conjugate vaccine) should be administered by deep intramuscular injection, preferably in the deltoid muscle. The vaccine must not be administered subcutaneously or intravenously, and must not be mixed with other vaccines in the same syringe.

The lyophilizate must be reconstituted by adding the entire contents of the supplied container of diluent to the vaccine vial, by using a sterile needle and sterile syringe. The vaccine pellet should be completely dissolved in the diluent. The vaccine should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter prior to administration. In the event of it being observed, the vaccine must be discarded. A new sterile needle and sterile syringe must be used for each injection. Once the vaccine has been reconstituted, it should be used the same day (preferably immediately but by no means beyond six (6) hours after reconstitution), and only then if the vial has been maintained between +2 °C and +8 °C and protected from sunlight. Any opened container remaining at the end of a session should be discarded.

## ADVERSE REACTIONS

MenAfriVac has shown adverse reactions during clinical trials in the 4 days following immunization, such as injection site tenderness in 2% to 30%, induration in less or equal to 2%, fever (body temperature  $\geq$  38°C) in 2% to 7%, and diarrhea in less or equal to 13% of children and adults 1 to 29 years of age. Other systemic adverse reactions consisted principally of irritability in less or equal to 12% of children 1 to 10 years of age or headache in less or equal to 11% of children and adults 11 to 29 years of age while other reactions such as vomiting (1 to 29 years of age); loss of appetite and lethargy (1 to 10 years of age) were reported in less or equal to 10% of the vaccine recipients and fatigue, myalgia, arthralgia (11 to 29 years of age) in less or equal to 1%. The frequencies of reactions were similar to those observed with licensed MenACWY polysaccharide vaccine, licensed MenAC polysaccharide vaccine or licensed Hib-TT vaccine with the exception of tenderness. All adverse reactions following immunization were transient and resolved without sequelae.

The vaccine did not cause any immediate adverse reactions nor beyond 4 days postimmunization. It also did not cause any delayed onset reactions.

## CONTRA-INDICATIONS

The vaccine must not be administered to subjects with known hypersensitivity to any component of the product or to subjects having shown hypersensitivity after previous administration of the vaccine. It should not be used in subjects with acute infectious diseases and/or ongoing progressive (acute or chronic) illnesses. Any body temperature  $\geq$  38°C or active infection is reason to delay immunization. Pregnant women should not be immunized since effects of vaccine on the fetus are unknown. Lactating women also should not be given the vaccine since it is not known whether the vaccine is excreted in human milk. Administration of the vaccine to subject with impaired immune responses may not induce an effective response.

## PRECAUTIONS AND WARNINGS

As with all injectable vaccines, appropriate medical treatment and supervision should always be readily available. Since anaphylactic, anaphylactoid or other allergic type reactions are theoretically possible following administration of MenAfriVac, 1:1000 adrenaline and other drugs such as hydrocortisone injection and chlorpheniramine maleate injection should be available for immediate treatment if such reaction occurs. For this reason the vaccinee should remain under medical supervision for 30 minutes after immunization.

Though MenAfriVac has shown boosting of anti-tetanus antibody concentrations; it does not substitute TT booster doses.

No safety or efficacy data are available for the administration of MenAfriVac to individuals leaving with HIV infection. Practitioners should evaluate the potential risks and benefits of administering the vaccine in these populations, considering the fact that subjects living with HIV infection are at increased risk for meningococcal

disease.

Before administration of each dose of MenAfriVac, the subject, or if a child, the child's parent or guardian, should be questioned about possible adverse events after the previous dose or after a previous dose of a TT-containing vaccine.

There is no evidence that MenAfriVac can cause meningococcal meningitis. Clinical alertness to the possibility of co-incident meningitis should be maintained.

## DRUG INTERACTIONS

Following administration of the vaccine to immune suppressed persons or persons receiving chronic immunosuppressive therapy, an adequate immunologic response may not be obtained.

There is no data yet on whether MenAfriVac can be concomitantly given with other vaccines.

## PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Adequate human data on use during pregnancy or lactation, and adequate animal reproduction studies are not available. Meningococcal A Conjugate vaccine is not recommended in pregnancy unless there is a definite risk of group A meningococcal disease. Lactating women also should not be given the vaccine since it is not known whether the vaccine is excreted in human milk.

## SHELF LIFE

The expiry date of the vaccine is indicated on the label and packaging.

## STORAGE

MenAfriVac should be stored and transported between 2-8°C. Protect from light. The diluent should be stored at 25°C. It is recommended to protect the reconstituted vaccine from direct sunlight. Do not exceed the expiry date stated on the external packaging. The vaccine is stable and can be used when exposed up to 40°C for a period of 4 days immediately prior to reconstitution provided the vaccine has not reached its expiry date and the vaccine vial monitor has not reached the discard point.

## Instructions for use/handling

MenAfriVac (Meningococcal A Conjugate vaccine) is presented as a white vaccine pellet in a vial, with sterile diluent in a separate container. The diluent and reconstituted vaccine should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of physical aspects prior to administration. In the event of either being observed, discard the diluent or reconstituted vaccine. The vaccine must be reconstituted by adding the entire contents of the supplied container of diluent (0.5/5 ml to 1/10 dose vials) to the vial containing the pellet, using a sterile syringe and a sterile needle. Only the diluent provided with the vaccine must be used for reconstitution. After the addition of the diluent to the pellet, the mixture should be well shaken- until the pellet is completely dissolved in the diluent. A new sterile syringe and sterile needle should be used to administer each dose of the vaccine. After reconstitution, the vaccine should be injected promptly.

## PRESENTATION

1 dose vial plus diluent (0.5 ml)

10 dose vial plus diluent (5 ml)

## THE VACCINE VIAL MONITOR (Optional)

- Inner square lighter than outer circle.  
If the expiry date has not passed, USE the vaccine.
- At a later time, inner square still lighter than outer circle.  
If the expiry date has not passed, USE the vaccine.
- Discard point:  
Inner square matches colour of outer circle.  
**DO NOT use the vaccine.**
- Beyond the discard point:  
Inner square darker than outer ring.  
**DO NOT use the vaccine.**

Vaccine Vial Monitors (VVMs) are part of the label on MenAfriVac (Meningococcal A Conjugate vaccine) supplied through Serum Institute of India Ltd. The colour dot which appears on the label of the vial is a VVM. This is a time-temperature sensitive dot that provides an indication of the cumulative heat to which the vial has been exposed. It warns the end user when exposure to heat is likely to have degraded the vaccine beyond an acceptable level.

The interpretation of the VVM is simple. Focus on the central square. Its colour will change progressively. As long as the colour of this square is lighter than the colour of the ring, then the vaccine can be used. As soon as the colour of the central square is the same colour as the ring or of a darker colour than the ring, then the vial should be discarded.

## MOST IMPORTANT WARNING

- Please ensure that the vaccine is administered by intramuscular route only. In rare cases anaphylactic shock may occur in susceptible individual and for such emergency please keep handy 1:1000 adrenaline injection ready to be injected intramuscularly or subcutaneously. For treatment of severe anaphylaxis the initial dose of adrenaline is 0.1 - 0.5 mg (0.1 - 0.5 ml of 1:1000 injection) given s/c or i/m. Single dose should not exceed 1 mg (1 ml). For infants and children the recommended dose of adrenaline is 0.01 mg/kg (0.01 ml/kg of 1:1000 injection). Single paediatric dose should not exceed 0.5 mg (0.5 ml). This will help in tackling the anaphylactic shock/ reaction effectively.
- The mainstay in the treatment of severe anaphylaxis is the prompt use of adrenaline, which can be lifesaving. It should be used at the first suspicion of anaphylaxis. As with the use of all vaccines the vaccines should remain under observation for not less than 30 minutes for possibility of occurrence of rapid allergic reactions. Hydrocortisone and antihistaminics should also be available in addition to supportive measures such as oxygen inhalation.



Manufactured by:  
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Protection from birth onwards

SII

# VACUNA CONJUGADA ANTIMENINGOCÓCICA A

**MenAfriVac** liofilizada

## DESCRIPCIÓN

MenAfriVac (Vacuna Conjugada Antimeningocócica A) es una vacuna liofilizada del polisacárido purificado de meningococo A covalentemente ligado al toxoide tetánico (TT), que actúa como una proteína transportadora. La vacuna consiste del polisacárido bacteriano purificado, específico al grupo del Grupo A de *Neisseria meningitidis*.

El TT se prepara por la extracción, purificación con sulfato de amoníaco y la inactivación con formalina, de la toxina de los cultivos de *Clostridium tetani*. La vacuna cumple con los requisitos de la OMS cuando se la comprueba según los métodos establecidos en OMS, TRS 962 (2011).

MenAfriVac se suministra en la forma de una presentación de 1/10 dosis, que consiste de un frasco y una ampolla. Cada frasco contiene un polvo liofilizado del polisacárido de Meningococo del Grupo A conjugado con la proteína del toxoide tetánico y excipientes. Cada ampolla contiene el diluyente con el fosfato de aluminio como adyuvante (la cantidad no excede 1,25 mg por dosis humana única) y tiomersal (0,01%) como preservativo. El diluyente es una suspensión blanca, ligeramente opaca, homogénea presentada en una ampolla de 0,5/5 ml.

El conjugado liofilizado se reconstituye justo antes del uso con el contenido de una ampolla del diluyente para obtener 1/10 dosis de la vacuna final en una suspensión blanca, homogénea. Una dosis única de la vacuna es equivalente a 0,5 ml de la suspensión reconstituida.

Cada dosis de 0,5 ml contiene: Contenido de Polisacárido de Meningococo A, no menos de 10 mcg, contenido de TT (proteína transportadora) no menos de 10 a 33 mcg y excipientes: manitol, sucrosa y Tris (hidroximetil) amino metano.

## INDICACIONES

MenAfriVac se indica en la inmunización activa contra la enfermedad invasiva meningocócica causada únicamente por el Meningococo A. No protege contra otras formas de enfermedad invasiva incluso la meningitis causada por otros grupos de meningococos (tales como el Grupo B, C, W135, Y), por *Haemophilus influenzae tipo b*, por *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, etc. Tampoco protege contra la meningitis causada por otros organismos como virus, hongos, micobacterias etc.

Se recomienda MenAfriVac para la inmunización rutinaria de niños que se inicia a la edad de 1 año, adolescentes y adultos de edad de hasta 29 años, para la prevención de la enfermedad invasiva causada por *Neisseria meningitidis* Grupo A. Niños de edad de 12 meses y más y adolescentes y adultos de hasta 29 años deben recibir una dosis única de 0,5 ml. La seguridad y la inmunogenicidad de una dosis de refuerzo han sido evaluadas en niños de edad de 2 -3 años, pero aún así no se ha establecido la necesidad de la re-vacunación.

Los sujetos que ya recibieron el polisacárido de Meningococo A que contiene la vacuna pueden ser vacunados con MenAfriVac. Es particularmente recomendada para los sujetos a riesgo, por ejemplo aquellos que viven en o visitan zonas dónde la enfermedad es epidémica o altamente endémica. También es recomendada para sujetos que viven en comunidades cerradas y en contacto estrecho con pacientes que sufren de la enfermedad causada por meningococo Grupo A, personas con la exposición, en laboratorios o industrias a aerosoles de *N. meningitidis*.

## POSOLOGÍA Y ADMINISTRACIÓN

La vacuna es exclusivamente para el uso intramuscular. MenAfriVac (Vacuna Conjugada Antimeningocócica A) debe ser administrado por la inyección profunda intramuscular, preferiblemente en el músculo deltoides. La vacuna no debe ser administrada subcutáneamente o intravenosamente y no debe mezclarse con otras vacunas en la misma jeringa.

El liofilizado debe ser reconstituido agregando el contenido entero del contenedor provisto del diluyente, al frasco de la vacuna, usando una aguja y jeringa estériles. La pildora de la vacuna debe ser completamente disuelta en el diluyente. La vacuna debe ser inspeccionada visualmente para material particulado extraño antes de la administración. En el evento de que sean observados, la vacuna debe descartarse. Se debe usar una jeringa y aguja estériles para cada inyección. Una vez que la vacuna se reconstituya, debe ser usada el mismo día (preferiblemente inmediatamente pero de ninguna manera más de 6 horas (6) después de la reconstitución), y sólo si el vial ha sido guardado a entre + 2°C y + 8°C y protegido de la luz. Cualquier contenedor abierto que quede al final de una sesión debe ser descartado.

## REACCIONES ADVERSAS

MenAfriVac ha demostrado reacciones adversas en las pruebas clínicas en los 4 días siguientes a la administración, tales como la sensibilidad en el sitio de la inyección en 2% a 30%, endurecimiento en menos de o igual a 2%, fiebre (temperatura corporal  $\geq$  38°C) en 2% a 7% y la diarrea en menos de o igual a 13% de niños y adultos de edad de 1 a 29 años. Otras reacciones adversas sistémicas consistieron principalmente de la irritabilidad en menos de o igual a 12% de los niños de edad de 1 a 10 años o el dolor de cabeza en menos de o igual a 11% de niños y adultos de edad de 11 a 29 años, mientras que otras reacciones como los vómitos (en la edad de entre 1 y 29 años); la pérdida del apetito y el letargo (edad entre 1 y 10 años) fueron comunicadas en menos de o igual a 10% de los vacunados y la fatiga, mialgia, arthralgia (edad entre 11 a 29 años) en menos de o igual a 1%. La frecuencia de las reacciones fue parecida a la frecuencia de las reacciones observada con la Vacuna MenACWY de polisacárido licenciada, Vacuna MenAC de polisacárido licenciada o la Vacuna Hib-TT licenciada con la excepción de la sensibilidad. Todas las reacciones adversas después de la inmunización eran temporales y se resolvieron sin secuelas. La vacuna no causó ninguna reacción adversa inmediata ni ocurrieron reacciones después de 4 días post-inmunización. Tampoco causó ninguna reacción de comienzo retardado.

## CONTRAINDICACIONES

La vacuna no debe ser administrada a sujetos con hipersensibilidad establecida a cualquier componente del producto o a sujetos que demostraron la hipersensibilidad después de la administración anterior de la vacuna. No debe ser usado en sujetos con enfermedades infecciosas y/o enfermedades progresivas existentes (agudas o crónicas). Una temperatura corporal de  $\geq$  38°C o la infección activa es suficiente motivo para postergar la inmunización. Las mujeres embarazadas no deben ser inmunizadas ya que no se sabe los efectos de la vacuna sobre el feto. Las mujeres lactantes no deben ser administradas la vacuna ya que no se sabe si la vacuna se excreta en la leche humana. La administración de la vacuna en sujetos con respuestas inmunes comprometidas puede no inducir una respuesta efectiva.

## PRECAUCIONES Y ADVERTENCIAS

Como en el caso de todas las vacunas inyectables, el tratamiento médico adecuado y la supervisión debe estar inmediatamente disponible. Dado que las reacciones tipo anafilácticas, o anafilactoides o alérgicas son teóricamente posibles después de la administración de MenAfriVac, deben estar disponibles 1:1000 adrenalina y otros medicamentos como la inyección de hidrocortisona y la inyección de maleato de clorfeniramina para el tratamiento inmediato, si ocurre una reacción de este tipo. Por este motivo, el vacunado debe permanecer bajo la supervisión médica durante 30 minutos después de la inmunización.

Aunque MenAfriVac ha demostrado un aumento en las concentraciones del anticuerpo antitetánico, no sustituye las dosis de refuerzo de TT.

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