PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE CAUSES MANY LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES IN KIDS AND ADULTS

Vaccination is the safest way to prevent pneumococcal disease.

What is pneumococcal disease?
- More than 90 strains of bacteria that cause multiple illnesses.
- Many of these illnesses are spread through coughing and sneezing. The most deadly is pneumonia.

Be Wise — Immunize
- Two vaccines protect against pneumococcal disease.
- Everyone younger than 2 and older than 64 need the shots.
- People between 2 and 64 with certain conditions, including those who smoke, may also benefit from the shots.
- A series of 4 shots for kids and 2 shots for adults gives full protection.

Talk to your doctor if you have questions about pneumococcal disease.

Treatment
- Antibiotics treat many pneumococcal illnesses. Some illnesses don’t respond to any medicines.

Symptoms and complications
Symptoms depend on the illness and usually develop quickly after exposure.
- Pneumonia: Fever, chills, shaking, chest pain, shortness of breath, bloody spit, sleepiness.
- Meningitis: High fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights.

Complications also depend on the illness.
- Repeated ear and nose infections.
- Hearing loss and developmental delays.
- Death.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia

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