

Investigation and treatment chart of meningitis in Kenya. Colour lithograph by the Ministry of Health, ca. 2000.

Publication/Creation

[Kenya] : [Ministry of Health], [2000?]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/emzhawvs>

License and attribution

Conditions of use: it is possible this item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

MENINGITIS - INVESTIGATION AND TREATMENT

Age \geq 60 days and history of fever

Any one of:

- ✓ Coma, inability to drink/feed, AVPU = 'P' or 'U'
- ✓ Stiff neck,
- ✓ Bulging fontanelle,
- ✓ Fits if age <6 months or > 6 years
- ✓ Evidence of partial seizures

Yes

Immediate LP to view by eye +/- laboratory examination even if malaria slide positive unless:

- ✦ Child requires CPR
- ✦ Pupils respond poorly to light
- ✦ Skin infection at LP site

No

Agitation/irritability
Any seizures

Yes

Consider LP if of concern, review situation and need for LP within 8 hours

No

Meningitis unlikely investigate other causes of fever

Interpretation of LP and treatment definitions:

Either Bedside examination:

- ✓ Looks cloudy in bottle (turbid) and not a blood stained tap,

And/or Laboratory examination with one or more of (if possible):

- ✓ White cell count $> 10 \times 10^6/L$
- ✓ Gram positive diplococci or Gram negative cocco-bacilli

No to all

Yes to one

One of:

- ✓ Coma
- ✓ Stiff neck,
- ✓ Bulging fontanelle,
- + LP looks clear or LP not done

Classify as definite meningitis:

1. Chloramphenicol, PLUS,
 2. Penicillin
- Minimum 10 days of treatment iv/im, **Steroids are not indicated**

None of these signs

Yes

CSF WBC result $< 10 \times 10^6/L$

Classify **probable** meningitis:

1. Chloramphenicol, PLUS,
 2. Penicillin,
- 7 days iv/im treatment then oral antibiotics to complete 14 days

Yes

LP not done, but other signs of possible meningitis

No meningitis

Possible meningitis -iv/im Chloramphenicol and Penicillin for minimum 3 days or until symptoms resolve

