Managing meningococcal disease

Mr Lance Gravatt (PhD) has recently drawn attention to the dilemma faced by doctors considering patients with an acute, severe, febrile illness, in whom the differential diagnoses includes influenza and meningococcal disease.¹ We agree that correct management of these patients is fraught with difficulties.

The most recent issue of Best Practice Journal provides a concise overview of the epidemiology, clinical features, management and prevention of meningococcal disease, which we believe will be helpful for doctors caring for patients with an acute, severe, non-specific illness.²

We hope that the advice contained in this article will help to reduce the number of fatalities from meningococcal disease in New Zealand in the coming years.

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