

Meningitis

Symptoms:

- Pyrexia ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Headache
- Light sensitivity (**photophobia**)
- Vomiting
- Neck stiffness
- Seizures
- Rash (usually seen for **meningococcal septicaemia**)

Diagnosis:

- Initial diagnosis:
 - **Clinical examination** → **Lumbar puncture** (for cerebrospinal fluid analysis and culture/**PCR**)

Treatment

- Bacterial meningitis:
 - Intravenous (IV) **antibiotics**
 - IV fluids
 - Oxygen therapy (via a face mask)
- Viral meningitis:
Usually treated with antiviral **acyclovir*** (often used **empirically** while awaiting for lab results)

*(anticonvulsants or steroids may be prescribed for seizures)