Risk of invasive meningococcal disease up with HIV/AIDS

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Image courtesy of Blausen Medical
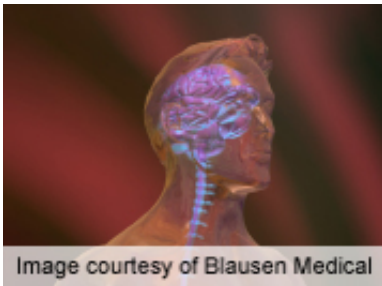
In New York City, people living with HIV/AIDS are at increased risk of contracting invasive meningococcal disease, according to a study published online Oct. 29 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

(HealthDay)—In New York City, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) are at increased risk of contracting invasive meningococcal disease (IMD), according to a study published online Oct. 29 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Laura Miller, M.P.H., from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and colleagues estimated the risk of IMD and death in PLWHA using IMD surveillance data from 2000 to 2011. Data from 263 reported cases (aged 15 to 64) were matched to death and HIV registries to calculate IMD risk and case fatalities. Age-matched, case-control analyses were conducted using a subset of PLWHA who had a CD4+ count and viral load measurement near the time of their IMD

infection.

The researchers identified 55 deaths among the 263 cases of IMD. The average annual incidence rate of IMD was 0.39 per 100,000, and the relative risk of IMD in PLWHA was 10.0 in the study period. Compared with age-matched controls, PLWHA with IMD were 5.3 times as likely to have CD4+ counts less than 200 x 10^9 cells/L.

"Cost effectiveness and vaccine efficacy studies are needed in order to evaluate the value of a national recommendation for routine meningococcal vaccination of PLWHA," the authors write.

 More information: [Full Text (subscription or payment may be required)](#)

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