

The Value of Invasive Meningococcal Disease Combination Vaccine – a Qualitative Study of Adolescents and Parents/Caregivers' Preferences in the US

The study underscores preferences from parents/caregivers and adolescents/young people for a combination meningococcal vaccine, driven by considering attributes such as added-protection to other infectious diseases, number of injections or visits and discomforts associated with injections.

Digital poster
Supplemental data
Narrated summary



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Objective

This qualitative study aims to identify concepts affecting preferences in adolescents (Ado) and young adults and parents / caregivers (P/C) decision making towards current and future Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) vaccines in the US.

Methods

- Two 90-min focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with Ado/Young adults (16-23 years) and P/C of 16-18 years old adolescents separately (Eligibility criteria in [Supplementary Table 1](#)).
- A targeted literature review informed the discussion guide development, outlining the potential important attributes of meningococcal vaccination and a future combination vaccine.
- FGDs were coded to apply thematic assessment. Results were synthesized separately by moderator-probed and spontaneously mentioned themes. Percentages were calculated on participant numbers contributing to a theme.
- Participants were presented with background IMD and vaccines information, followed by a detailed discussion on important and least important factors for decision-making towards a future meningococcal combination vaccine as well as the existing/potential future vaccines.

¹The study received IRB approval on the date 11/27/2023

Results

- Thirteen participants were included in FGDs (6 Ado / young adults and 7 parents / caregivers), with characteristics presented in [Figure 1](#).

Figure 1.

Gender	Adolescents and young adults (16-23 years)	
	Male	Female
Female	3	4
Male	2	3
Trans-female	1	

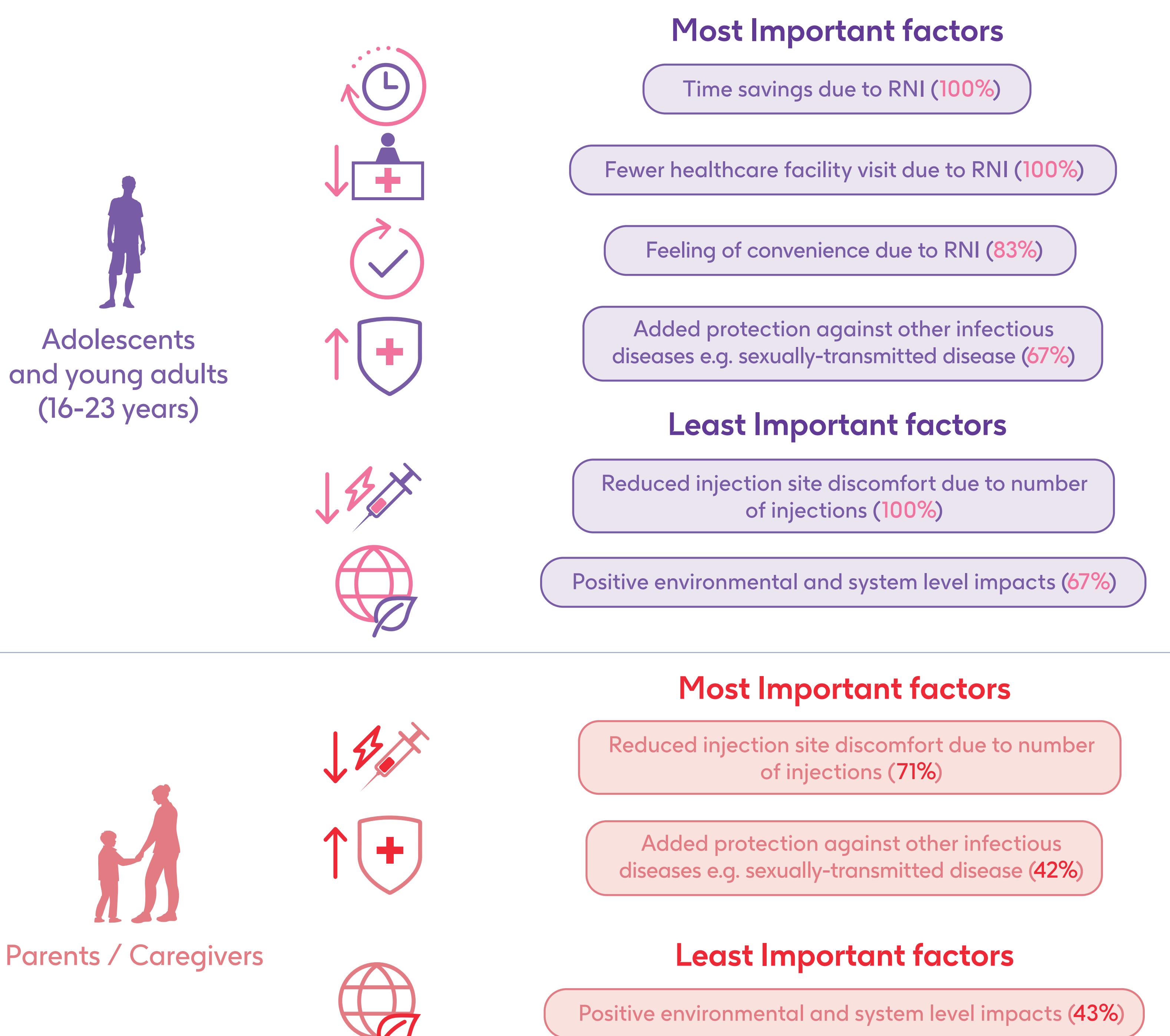
Race	Adolescents and young adults (16-23 years)	
	White	Others
White	4	5
Others	2	2

Education	Adolescents and young adults (16-23 years)	
	Below college degree	College degree or above
Below college degree	2	1
College degree or above	4	6

- Results emanating from the probed discussion points were presented in [Figure 2](#).

Figure 2. Most and Least Important Factors Influencing Decision-making for Future Meningococcal Combination Vaccine¹

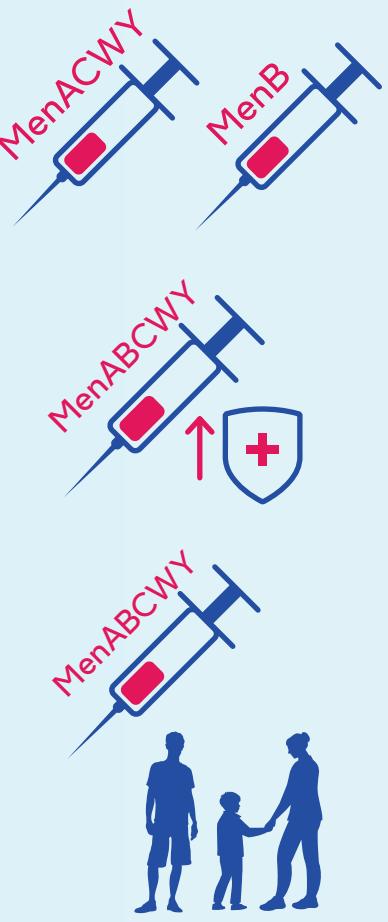
RNI: Reduced number of injections



¹Participants were able to mention more than 1 most important factor. These concepts are not mutually exclusive and we have not conceptualised the relationships between them in this study.

- In addition to the probed themes, the following spontaneous themes emerged during the FGDs as important vaccine attributes: duration of protection, effectiveness, side effects and dosing interval.

Background



- MenACWY and MenB are commonly used vaccines to prevent IMD, targeting serogroups A, B, C, W, Y ([1](#)).
- MenABCWY combination vaccines are under development and could provide increased vaccine coverage of serogroups ([2](#)).
- It is important to understand how the adolescents and young adults and their parents / caregivers value the potential attributes of a meningococcal combination vaccine when making a vaccine decision.

Conclusions

- Both Ado/young adults (16-23 year old) and parents/caregivers of 16-18 year olds found attributes of a future IMD combination vaccine important for vaccine decision-making.
- Vaccine-receivers preferred a combination vaccine covering serogroups A, B, C, W, Y, with simplified schedules (e.g. fewer visits and injections)
- Added-protection against other infectious disease was considered as an important attribute for both ado/young people and parents/caregivers.

Abbreviations

Ado: Adolescents; FGC: Focus Group Discussions;
IMD: Invasive Meningococcal Disease; P/C: Parents/Caregivers; RNI: Reduced number of injections

MRF conference | 7th-8th November 2023 | London, United Kingdom

This is an ENCORE of a poster originally presented at IDWeek 2023, 11-15 Oct, Boston, Massachusetts

References

- (1) Mbailey S et al. MMWR Recomm. Rep. 2020;69(9):1
- (2) Marshall G et al. Infect Dis Ther. 2022;11(3):937-951

Acknowledgements

Malack ABBAS provided medical writing support for the original poster.
Business & Decision Life Sciences platform provided editorial assistance and publication coordination, on behalf of GSK
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Financial disclosure

Statement: GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals SA funded this study (GSK study identifier: 219275) and was involved in all stages of study conduct, including analysis of the data. GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals SA also took in charge all costs associated with the development and publication of this poster.

Disclosures

SB, ESC, ZK are employed by and hold shares in GSK. LH was employed as freelance by GSK. TK, SCC, LB are employed by IQVIA. IQVIA received funding from GSK to conduct of the study. The authors declare no other financial and non-financial relationships and activities.