Measles, mumps and rubella

Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) are viral diseases that can have serious consequences.

TRANSMISSION:[19]

Diseases spread from person to person.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:[19]

Measles virus causes symptoms that include:
- Fever
- Cough
- Rash
- Red, watery eyes
- Runny nose

Mumps virus causes:
- Fever
- Muscle aches
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Swollen salivary glands

Rubella virus causes:
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Rash
- Red, itchy eyes
- Headache

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:[19]

Measles:
- Ear infection
- Brain damage (rare)
- Diarrhoea
- Death (rare)
- Pneumonia

Mumps:
- Swelling of the testicles or ovaries
- Inflammation of the brain and/or tissue covering the brain and spinal cord (encephalitis/meningitis)
- Deafness
- Death (very rare)

Rubella can cause arthritis in up to half of teenage and adult women. If a woman gets rubella while she is pregnant, she could have a miscarriage or her baby could be born with serious birth defects.

Chickenpox

DISEASE:[21]

Chickenpox (Varicella) is a common childhood disease. It is usually mild but it can be serious, especially in young infants and adults.

TRANSMISSION:[21]

Chickenpox is highly contagious. It spreads from person to person by direct contact or by droplets from an infected person when he coughs or sneezes. It can also spread indirectly through articles freshly soiled by droplets or fluid from the blisters of an infected person.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:[21]

An infected person usually has a fever, together with red spots on the body and face. The spots appear over a few days and progress to blisters which eventually burst, dry up and form crusts before healing. These spots are usually itchy and may leave scars when scratched.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:[21]

- Skin infection
- Dehydration
- Brain damage from encephalitis
- Pneumonia

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