



RFK Jr. Seeks to Silence Vaccine Story

Description

At about 5 a.m. on April 1, 2025, in Paris, Antoine Archambault heard his baby son Isaac fussing. Isaac, normally cheerful, had a mild fever. Antoine gave him paracetamol, and Isaac went back to sleep.

A bit later, Isaac's fever returned. Antoine's partner, Claire Fauvet, needed to leave for work, so he took Isaac to a medical clinic. They arrived as it opened, expecting a routine check-up. But soon after, an ambulance was called to take Isaac to the children's hospital, alarming Antoine. A doctor informed him Isaac might have meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal disease, caused by bacteria, spreads through close contact. It can quickly become life-threatening, causing shock and brain swelling. About 10-15% of cases are fatal even with treatment, and many survivors have permanent impairments.

Antoine believed Isaac had been vaccinated. However, a new requirement for one of the vaccines had only just been introduced, and Isaac hadn't yet received it. Tragically, Isaac's condition worsened, and he passed away later that day.

In the U.S., recent changes remove the meningococcal vaccine from recommended childhood immunizations, except for high-risk groups. This decision, led by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., was made despite no new data. The changes have sparked concerns about the impact on public health.

Antoine and Claire now work to raise awareness and support research on the disease to prevent more tragedies like theirs.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Meningococcal** /ˌmɛn.ɪŋ.gəˈkɒk.əl/ (adjective): Relating to meningococcus a type of bacteria that can cause severe infections.
2. **Impairments** /ɪmˈpeɪr.mənt/ (noun): A loss of normal function or ability.
3. **Alarming** /əˈlɑː.mɪŋ/ (adjective): Causing fear or concern.
4. **Fatal** /ˈfeɪ.təl/ (adjective): Causing death.
5. **Tragically** /ˈtrædʒ.ɪ.kli/ (adverb): In a way that causes great sadness or distress.
6. **Vaccinated** /ˈvæk.sɪ.neɪ.tɪd/ (verb): Administered a vaccine to protect against disease.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What time did Antoine Archambault hear his baby son Isaac fussing on April 1, 2025?

- Option: 5 a.m.
- Option: 6 a.m.
- Option: 4 a.m.
- Option: 7 a.m.

2. What disease did the doctor suspect Isaac might have?

- Option: Meningitis
- Option: Chickenpox
- Option: Measles
- Option: Influenza

3. What percentage of meningococcal disease cases are fatal even with treatment?

- Option: 5-10%
- Option: 10-15%
- Option: 15-20%
- Option: 20-25%

4. Who made the recent changes regarding the meningococcal vaccine in the U.S.?

- Option: Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
- Option: Barack Obama
- Option: Donald Trump
- Option: Hillary Clinton

5. What time did Antoine Archambault give paracetamol to Isaac?

- Option: 5 a.m.
- Option: 6 a.m.
- Option: 4 a.m.
- Option: 7 a.m.

6. What did Antoine believe about Isaac regarding vaccinations?

- Option: He was fully vaccinated.
- Option: He had not received any vaccinations.
- Option: He was partially vaccinated.
- Option: He had received the new vaccine requirement.



True-False

7. Is meningococcal disease caused by a virus?
8. Antoine and Claire now work to raise awareness about meningococcal disease.
9. Is the meningococcal vaccine still recommended for all children in the U.S.?
10. Is meningococcal disease highly contagious?
11. Antoine believed Isaac had received the new vaccine requirement.
12. Is meningococcal disease treatable only with antibiotics?

Gap-Fill

13. Isaac may have passed away due to meningococcal disease because of a new requirement for one of the vaccines that had been introduced in _____.
14. The recent changes in the U.S. no longer recommend the meningococcal vaccine for children, except for _____ groups.
15. Antoine took Isaac to the medical clinic as it _____.
16. Meningococcal disease can cause _____, which is a life-threatening condition.
17. Antoine heard Isaac fussing at _____ on April 1, 2025.
18. Isaac's condition _____, and he passed away on the same day.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 5 a.m. 2. Meningitis 3. 10-15% 4. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 6. He was fully vaccinated.

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 2025 14. high-risk 15. opened 16. shock 17. 5 a.m. 18. worsened

CATEGORY



1. Health - LEVEL3

POST TAG

1. B1
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. L3
5. Level 3
6. RFK Jr.
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Author

aimeeyoung99

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