

**Suspect Bacterial Meningitis (Meningococcal)
Information Collection Form**

Name _____ dob _____

CSF Gram stain _____

CSF Cell Counts

White Blood Cell Count _____

% Neutrophils/polys _____

% Lymphocytes _____

CSF Chemistries

Protein _____

Glucose _____

CSF Antigen Testing (latex agglutination)

_____Positive _____Negative

Organism _____

Additional Questions:

Patient's presenting symptoms:

Rash _____Y _____N

Rash description (Petechial? Purpura?) _____

Fever _____Y _____N How high was fever? _____

Headache _____Y _____N Stiff neck _____Y _____N

Other symptoms? _____

Date spinal tap performed or blood collected _____

Did patient receive antibiotics prior to spinal tap/blood cultures? _____Y _____N

If yes, when were antibiotics started? _____

Typical CSF Findings in Bacterial vs. Viral Meningitis

	Bacterial	Viral
Cell Count	1,000 – 5,000* (range: 1,000 – 100,000)	100 – 1,000
Cell Type	Neutrophils/polys predominate (>80%)	Mostly mononuclear/lymphs (early, polys may predominate)
Pressure	> 180 mm	Normal
Protein	>45 (usually 100 – 500)	Normal/ slightly elevated
Glucose	<40 (or <40% of blood glucose)	Normal/slightly decreased
Gram Stain	<i>H. flu</i> & <i>S. pneumoniae</i> identified more readily than <i>N. meningitidis</i> (subject to misreading/false +'s)	Negative

* cell count may be normal in premature neonates and infants < 1 month

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CSF.table.doc by Dr. Ken Gershman

White Blood Cells Differentials

White blood cells (WBCs) can be divided into the following groups; Neutrophils, Lymphocytes, Monocytes, Eosinophils and Basophils. Neutrophils may also be called “Polys” or “Segs”. Neutrophils can be designated as mature or “bands”. “Bands” are immature neutrophils, which normally are only in the bone marrow but are released into the bloodstream with significant infection, especially sepsis. The term “left shift” indicates the presence of “bands” on a peripheral blood smear.