

## IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE



### **Meningococcal septicaemia**

*Neisseria meningitidis*, a commensal in the human throat, can cause life threatening meningococemia or meningitis. The characteristic widespread petechial or purpuric rash develops in 75% of these patients. Meningitis occurring in the presence of such an eruption alerts the clinicians for meningococemia.

In this photograph the patient is having meningitis with the characteristic rash. The patient recovered after a course of high dose parenteral penicillin therapy but the typical rash in the healing stage can still be seen, especially in the lower limbs.

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