higher risk of getting it. You can also get meningitis if you kiss or share drinks with someone who is sick with the infection who is coughing, which is why teenagers and college students living in dorms are at a higher risk. At the hospital, they will order blood tests and a lumbar puncture. A lumbar puncture is a procedure that involves removing a small amount of cerebrospinal fluid from the lower part of the spinal cord. This fluid is then examined to detect the presence of bacteria or viruses. If meningitis is confirmed, additional treatments may be needed.

Fam Physician. 2017 Sep 1;96(5):online. See related article on meningitis Meningitis (men-in-JI-tiss) is an infection of the meninges, which are the protective membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. If left untreated, meningitis can be a deadly illness, and even with treatment, it can cause serious complications such as brain damage or hearing loss.

The article entitled “Diagnosis and Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation” published in the September 15, 2016, issue of AFP (Am Fam Physician) discusses recommendations on the evaluation of patients with atrial fibrillation. The authors emphasize the importance of assessing the risk of stroke and the risks associated with anticoagulation therapy, such as bleeding. They also highlight the need for individualized treatment plans that consider patient preferences and values, as well as the potential benefits and harms of different therapies. The article recommends a stepwise approach to the management of atrial fibrillation, focusing on identifying patients who may benefit from rhythm control therapy and those who may be better suited for rate control.


