INTRODUCTION

Meningococcal disease (MD) is an acute febrile illness, with high case fatality rates among children in its acute form. It is caused by Neisseria meningitidis, a gram-negative coccobacillus. Acute meningococcal meningitis (MM) and septicemia are the major clinical syndromes of the disease. Vaccination has been shown to be effective in the prevention of meningococcal disease, reducing the incidence of both the disease and its sequelae.

The Global Meningococcal Initiative (GMI) was established in 2001 with the aim of promoting education, research, and cooperation in the field of meningococcal diseases worldwide. The GMI consists of a global network of laboratories and experts who work together to improve the understanding and control of meningococcal disease. The GMI includes 11 regional and national reference laboratories, and it has been successful in increasing the surveillance of meningococcal disease worldwide.

The GMI has five main objectives:
1. To promote education, research, and cooperation in the field of meningococcal diseases worldwide.
2. To improve the understanding of meningococcal disease epidemiology.
3. To promote the development of effective meningococcal vaccines.
4. To support the implementation of effective meningococcal vaccination programs.
5. To promote the development of effective meningococcal disease treatment and control measures.

The GMI has been successful in increasing the surveillance of meningococcal disease worldwide, and it has made significant contributions to the understanding of meningococcal disease epidemiology, the development of effective meningococcal vaccines, and the implementation of effective meningococcal vaccination programs.

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