Overall incidence of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) is low; serogroup-specific incidence can be erratic and unpredictable. Even with appropriate treatment, IMD still causes substantial mortality and morbidity.

To introduce new vaccines into national immunization programs, many countries have instituted health technology assessments that require a cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA).

The health economic model used in these evaluations typically requires an assumption of endemic disease epidemiology, which thus far has been incompatible with variable and unpredictable IMD.

Christensen et al. (2014): "Assumptions about disease incidence are also highly influential. We are currently experiencing low rates of disease, which might increase in the future..."