Summary of Trial Results for GoGoVax Participants

On behalf of the GoGoVax study team, we would like to sincerely thank you for taking part in this trial. Your time, commitment, and contribution were essential to the completion of this trial, and we are truly grateful for your involvement.

The trial has now finished, and we would like to share the main findings with you.

About the GoGoVax trial:

Gonorrhoea disproportionately affects gay and bisexual men, transgender people and people living with HIV. GoGoVax was a multi-centre randomised controlled trial. It looked at whether the meningococcal B vaccine, called 4CMenB (Bexsero®), could help prevent gonorrhoea infection in men (cis and trans), trans women, and non-binary people who have sex with men and are aged 18–50 years.

There is currently no licensed vaccine to prevent gonorrhoea. GoGoVax aimed to find out if people who received the 4CMenB vaccine had fewer new gonorrhoea infections compared to those who received a placebo (salt water).

Who took part in the trial:

- 650 participants were enrolled between July 2021 and May 2023.
- The trial was run at 7 public sexual health and GP clinics in NSW, Victoria, and Queensland.
- The final follow-up visit was in June 2025.

Participant characteristics:

- 98% identified as male and 2% identified as trans women or non-binary.
- 92% identified as gay or bisexual.
- Average age was 34 years.
- 9.5% were living with HIV.

Main findings:

The trial showed that the **4CMenB vaccine did not reduce the risk of getting gonorrhoea**. The number of gonorrhoea infections during the study period was the same in both the vaccine group and the placebo group. This was similar in people living with and without HIV.

This result is similar to another recent randomised trial in France called DOXYVAC[1], which also found that the 4CMenB vaccine was **not effective** in preventing gonorrhoea in a similar group of people.

What does this mean?

Although the 4CMenB vaccine did not prevent gonorrhoea, it is still a licensed vaccine for preventing meningitis B, a serious infection. If you received the vaccines during the trial or received the complimentary vaccines after the trial, you should still be protected against meningitis B.

Why are randomised trials important?

Some earlier studies suggested that the 4CMenB vaccine might reduce the risk of gonorrhoea. In those studies, researchers watched gonorrhoea rates after people received 4CMenB vaccine for meningitis prevention.

In contrast, GoGoVax was a randomised trial, which means participants were randomly placed into either the vaccine group or the placebo group, like flipping a coin. This ensures the groups are similar in all important ways, like age and sexual behaviour, so the only difference is whether or not they received the vaccine. The study was larger than any previous randomised controlled trial of this vaccine for gonorrhoea prevention. This makes researchers confident that any difference in gonorrhoea rates between the groups is due to the vaccine, rather than other factors such as age, lifestyle, or past infection.

Together, the GoGoVax and DOXYVAC trials provide strong evidence that the 4CMenB vaccine **does not protect against gonorrhoea** in men who have sex with men at high risk of gonorrhoea. For more information on gonorrhoea prevention, please talk to your GP or sexual health physician, or consult the following NSW Health advice:
(https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/gonorrhoea.aspx)

Limitations:

It is important to note that these results **may not apply to other groups**, such as women or populations with lower rates of gonorrhoea.

Person to contact for questions:

If you have any questions about the trial findings, please contact:

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Thanks again for participating in this important trial.

[1] DOXYVAC trial: https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(24)00236-6/fulltext