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(57) Abstract

A highly conserved, immunologically accessible antigen at the surface of *Neisseria meningitidis* organisms. Immunotherapeutic, prophylactic and diagnostic compositions and methods useful in the treatment, prevention and diagnosis of *Neisseria meningitidis* diseases. A proteinase K resistant *Neisseria meningitidis* surface protein having an apparent molecular weight of 22 kDa, the corresponding nucleotide and derived amino acid sequences (SEQ ID NO:1, NO:3, NO:5, and NO:7: SEQ ID NO:2, NO:4, NO:6, and NO:8), recombinant DNA methods for the production of the *Neisseria meningitidis* 22 kDa surface protein, and antibodies that bind to the *Neisseria meningitidis* 22 kDa surface protein.