Know the **Early Symptoms**

In the early stages, it can be very difficult to tell meningitis apart from less serious diseases and conditions.

The following symptoms can appear in any order and some may not appear at all:\(^1\)

- **Fever**
- **Headache**
- **Vomiting**
- **Cold Hands & Feet**
- **Refusing Feeding**
- **Drowsy, Floppy**
- **Tense/bulging fontanelle (soft spot)**
- **Muscle Pain**

While the early symptoms are similar for all age groups, there are some additional symptoms to look out for in babies:\(^2\)

- **Unusual Crying**
- **Refusing Feeding**
- **Drowsy, Floppy**
- **Tense/bulging fontanelle (soft spot)**

**The Rash Test**

It is crucial not to wait for a rash to appear before seeking medical attention. To identify a meningitis rash, press a clear glass firmly against the skin. A fever combined with spots that do not fade under pressure is a medical emergency.\(^1\)

**For more information on meningitis, please speak to your GP, nurse or pharmacist.**

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3. GSK. Tackle Meningitis Survey. April 2017