

► Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine



"Vaccination is good protection"

Protect your child by vaccinating him or her against serious infections caused by the pneumococcal germ and their complications. An infection of the brain's lining (meningitis) and blood poisoning (bacteremia) are two serious illnesses caused by pneumococcus germs. There are many types of pneumococcus. The conjugate vaccine protects against the 7 types found most often in children.

DISEASES

Pneumococcus is spread by:

- Contact with secretions from the nose and throat of an infected person.

Pneumococcus causes:

- Ear infections
- Sinus infections
- Pneumonia
- Meningitis
- Bacteremia (blood poisoning)

Possible complications of pneumococcal infections include:

- Deafness
- Permanent brain damage
- Death

The Vaccine

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child against serious pneumococcal infections. The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine may be given starting at 2 months of age. The number of doses varies depending on the child's age. The vaccine is recommended for all children 2 months to 2 years. It is also recommended for children up to the age of 5 years with a medical condition that increases their risk of serious pneumococcal infection.

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is safe.

Inform your health care provider if your child has an allergy to any vaccine, or to latex.

EFFECTS

Possible side effects

- Forty-eight hours after vaccination, the child may experience redness, swelling, and tenderness around the injection site (10% to 36% of cases).
- The child may run a mild (15% to 25% of cases) or high fever (fewer than 2.5% of cases). A high fever may cause seizures.
- The vaccine may cause other reactions such as irritability, appetite and sleep disruptions, vomiting, diarrhea, and skin rash.

What to do

- Apply a cold, damp cloth to the injection site.
- Give a fever medication such as acetaminophen if your child's temperature is 38.5°C or over.
- See a health care provider depending on the seriousness of symptoms.

Severe allergic reactions are rare.

Should a severe allergic reaction occur, it would begin immediately and the person who gave the vaccine will be able to treat it. That's why you should stay on site for at least 15 minutes after the vaccination.

For more information, ask the person who gave you the vaccine or consult another health care provider.

