

► Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine



"Vaccination is good protection"

This vaccine protects you 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 germs. The polysaccharide vaccine protects against the 23 types most often found in children and adults.

DISEASES	Pneumococcus		
	Pneumococcus is spread by:	Pneumococcus causes:	Possible complications of pneumococcal infections include:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with secretions from the nose and throat of an infected person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear infections • Sinus infections • Pneumonia • Meningitis • Bacteremia (blood poisoning) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deafness • Permanent brain damage • Death

The Vaccine

Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself against serious pneumococcal infections. The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine may be given starting at two years of age. It is recommended for persons 65 years or over and people 2 to 64 years with a medical condition that increases their risk of serious pneumococcal infection. Vaccine is usually administered only once. People at higher risk of serious pneumococcal infection include those with certain chronic illnesses like heart, lung, kidney disease, diabetes, cancer, and those with weakened immune systems.

The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine is safe.

Inform your health care provider if you or your child (if your child is receiving this vaccine) have/has an allergy to any vaccine or to latex.

EFFECTS	Possible side effects	What to do
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may experience redness, swelling, or tenderness around the injection site (30% to 50% of cases). • Some 3% to 7% of people may experience a mild fever and muscle pains lasting less than 24 hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a cold, damp cloth to the injection site. • Take a fever medication such as acetaminophen if your temperature is 38.5°C or over.
	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 another health care professional.