

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine



Vaccination is good protection



Vaccination protects your children against serious pneumococcal infections and their complications. There are many types of pneumococcus. Conjugate vaccines protect against the 7 types (Pevnar vaccine) or 10 types (Synflorix vaccine) that are most common in children.

DISEASE

Pneumococcus is spread by:

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

Pneumococcus infection causes:

- Ear infection
- Sinusitis
- Pneumonia
- Meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain)
- Bacteremia (blood infection)

Possible complications:

- Deafness
- Permanent brain damage
- Death

VACCINE

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child against serious pneumococcal infections and their complications. The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is recommended for children aged 2 months to 4 years. It is also recommended for all children aged 5 to 17 with a medical condition that increases their risk of severe meningococcal infections. The number of doses depends on the child's age and state of health.

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long. Symptoms experienced after vaccination are not necessarily caused by the vaccine.

REACTIONS

Possible reactions to the vaccine:

- Redness, swelling and tenderness at the injection site (10-49%)
- Mild fever and irritability (10-49%) or high fever (1-9%)
High fever occasionally causes the child to have convulsions (1 to 9 per 1,000)
- Changes in appetite and sleep, vomiting, diarrhea (10-49%), skin rash (1 to 9 per 1,000)

What to do:

- Apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site
- Give medication such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen for temperature of 38.5°C or higher
- See a doctor if symptoms are severe

As with any drug or biological product, an allergic reaction may occur. If a severe allergic reaction occurs, it begins within minutes and the person administering the vaccine will be able to treat it. That is why you are advised to remain at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after the vaccine is administered.

If you have any questions, ask the person administering the vaccine or contact Info-Santé (8-1-1) or your doctor.

