

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine



Vaccination is good protection



This vaccine protects against serious pneumococcal infections and their complications. There are many types of pneumococcus. The polysaccharide vaccine protects against the 23 types most common in children and adults.

DISEASE

Pneumococcus is spread by:	Pneumococcus infection causes:	Possible complications:
<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 infection Sinusitis Pneumonia Meningitis Bacteremia (blood infection) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deafness Permanent brain damage Death

VACCINE

Vaccination is the best protection against serious pneumococcal infections and their complications. The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine may be given from the age of 2. It is recommended for persons 65 years or over and for people aged 2 to 64 years with a medical condition that increases their risk of serious pneumococcal infection. The vaccine is usually administered only once.

The following individuals have a higher risk of serious pneumococcal infection: people with a defective spleen or no spleen (due to surgery or certain illnesses), people who have undergone a cochlear implant, people who suffer from certain chronic illnesses such as heart, lung or kidney disease, diabetes or cancer, and people with a suppressed immune system.

The pneumococcal polysaccharide 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:	What to do:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swelling, redness and tenderness at the injection site (50% or more) for under 48 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild to moderate fever, muscle pain and headache (1-9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take acetaminophen or ibuprofen for temperature of 38.5°C or higher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A severe local reaction, high fever and generalized discomfort such as joint or muscle pain, skin rash (1 to 9 per 100,000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

