

Vaccine Reactions - Specific Details

Definition

- A reaction to a recent immunization (vaccine)
- Most reactions are at the shot site (such as pain, swelling, redness)
- General reactions (such as a fever or being fussy) also can be common

Health Information

Types of Vaccines Covered

Go directly to the vaccine number that relates to your question for details:

1. Chickenpox (varicella) virus
2. DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
3. Hemophilus influenzae type b
4. Hepatitis A virus
5. Hepatitis B virus
6. Human Papilloma virus
7. Influenza virus
8. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
9. Meningococcal
10. Polio virus
11. Pneumococcal
12. Rotavirus

Care Advice

1. **Chickenpox Virus Vaccine:**

- Pain or swelling at the shot site for 1 to 2 days. (20% of children)
- Mild fever lasting 1 to 3 days begins 17 to 28 days after the shot (15%). Give acetaminophen or ibuprofen for fever over 102° F (39°C).
- Never give aspirin for fever, pain or within 6 weeks of getting the shot. Reason: Risk of Reye syndrome, a rare but serious brain disease.
- Chickenpox-like rash (usually 2 red bumps) at the shot site (3%)
- Chickenpox-like rash (usually 5 red bumps) scattered over the body (4%)
- This mild rash begins 5 to 26 days after the shot. Most often, it lasts a few days.
- Children with these rashes can go to child care or school. (Reason: For practical purposes, vaccine rashes are not spread to others)
- EXCEPTION: Do not go to school if red bumps drain fluid and are all over. Reason: Can be actual chickenpox.
- Caution: If vaccine rash contains fluid, cover it with clothing or a Band-Aid.

2. **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP) Vaccine:**
 - These harmless reactions to DTaP can occur:
 - Pain, swelling and redness at the shot site is the main side effect. This happens in 25% of children. It lasts for 3 to 7 days.
 - Fever (in 25% of children) and lasts for 24 to 48 hours
 - Children can be sleepy (30%) and / or fussy (30%). They can also have a decreased appetite (10%). These symptoms go away in about 24 to 48 hours after the shot.
 - Large swelling over 4 inches (10 cm) arm can follow the later doses of DTaP. The area of redness is smaller. This usually occurs with the 4th or 5th dose. It occurs in 5% of children. Most children can still move the leg or arm normally. The area of redness is smaller.
 - The large thigh or upper arm swelling goes away without treatment. This is usually by day 3 (60%) to day 7 (90%).
 - This is not an allergy. Future DTaP vaccines are safe to give.
3. **Hemophilus Influenza Type B Vaccine (Hib):**
 - No serious reactions reported.
 - Sore shot site or mild fever only occurs in 2% of children.
4. **Hepatitis A Virus Vaccine:**
 - No serious reactions reported.
 - Sore shot site occurs in 20% of children.
 - Loss of appetite occurs in 10% of children.
 - Headache occurs in 5% of children.
 - Most often, no fever is present.
 - If these symptoms occur, they most often last 1-2 days.
5. **Hepatitis B Virus Vaccine (HBV):**
 - No serious reactions reported.
 - Sore shot site occurs in 30% of children and mild fever in 3% of children.
 - Fever from the vaccine is rare. Any baby under 2 months with a fever after this shot should be examined.
6. **Influenza Virus Vaccine:**
 - Pain or swelling at the shot site occurs within 6 to 8 hours. The shot site may be tender to touch. This happens in 10% of children.
 - Mild fever under 103° F (39.5° C) occurs in 20% of children. Fevers mainly occur in young children.
 - **Nasal Influenza Vaccine:** Congested or runny nose, mild fever.
7. **Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccine:**
 - **Measles Virus Vaccine** can cause a fever (10% of children) and rash (5% of children). This occurs about 6 to 12 days after the shot.
 - Mild fever under 103° F (39.5°C) in 10% and lasts 2 or 3 days.
 - The mild pink rash is mainly on the trunk and lasts 2 or 3 days.
 - No treatment is needed. The measles vaccine rash cannot be spread to others. Your child can go to child care or to school with the rash.
 - **Mumps or Rubella Virus Vaccine:** There are no serious reactions. Sometimes, a sore shot site can occur.
 - **Call Your Doctor If:** Rash changes to blood-colored spots or lasts more than 3 days.
8. **Meningococcal Vaccine:**
 - No serious reactions.
 - Sore shot site for 1 to 2 days occurs in 50%. Limited use of the arm occurs in 15% of children.
 - Mild fever occurs in 5%, headache in 40% and joint pain in 20%
 - The vaccine never causes meningitis.

9. **Papillomavirus Virus Vaccine:**

- No serious reactions.
- Sore shot site for few days in 90%.
- Redness and swelling at the shot site (in 50%).
- Fever over 100.4° F (38.0° C) in 10% and fever over 102° F (39° C) in 2%.
- Headache in 30%.

10. **Pneumococcal Vaccine:**

- No serious reactions.
- Pain, swelling OR redness at the shot site in 20%.
- Mild fever under 102° F (39° C) in 15% for 1-2 days.

11. **Polio Virus Vaccine:**

- Polio vaccine given by shot sometimes causes some muscle soreness.
- Polio vaccine given by mouth is no longer used in the U.S.

12. **Rotavirus Vaccine:**

- Usually, no serious reactions to this vaccine given by mouth.
- Mild diarrhea or vomiting for 1 to 2 days in 3%.
- No fever.
- Rare serious reaction: intussusception risk 1 in 100,000 (CDC). Presents with vomiting, bloody diarrhea or severe crying.

Call Your Doctor If

- Redness starts after 2 days (48 hours)
- Redness becomes larger than 2 inches (5 cm)
- Pain or redness gets worse after 3 days
- Pain or redness lasts more than 7 days
- Fever starts after 2 days
- Fever lasts more than 3 days
- You think your child needs to be seen
- Your child becomes worse

Pediatric Care Advice

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