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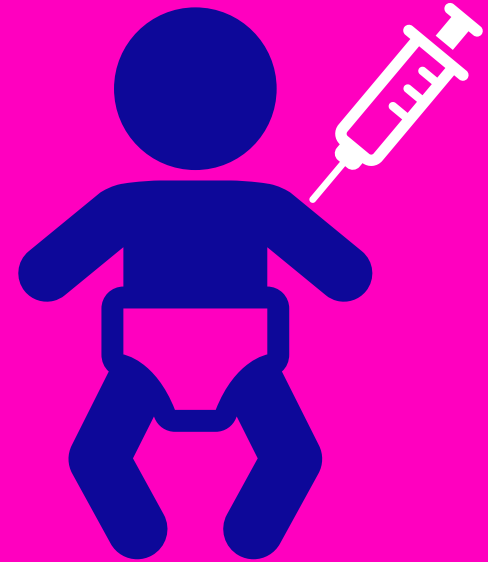
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مستشفى الملك فيصل التخصصي ومركز الأبحاث
King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre
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Children Vaccines



Vaccines are amongst the most important medical discoveries, which has proven to be beneficial, effective and safe throughout the ages. Vaccines are key factors in the prevention of infectious diseases and relate serious complications.

Vaccines are boosters for the immune system against certain diseases. The disease-causing organism or part of it is extracted and weakened so it will not harm the body. The body then produces antibodies against such an organism therein the body is able to fight the disease when expose again to same organism. Therefore, the child is protected from the organism and related complications.

Vaccines are given orally or by injection

Schedule of approved children vaccines in Saudi Arabia:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| BCG Hepatitis B | At birth |
| IPV DTaP Hepatitis B Hib (Pneumococcal Conjugate)PCV Rota | Two months |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| IPV DTaP Hepatitis B Hib (Pneumococcal Conjugate(PCV Rota | Four months |
| OPV or IPV DTaP Hepatitis B Hib Pneumococcal Conjugate(PCV BCG | Six months |
| Measles Meningococcal Conjugate quadrivalent MCV4 | Nine months |
| OPV MMR Pneumococcal Conjugate PCV Meningococcal Conjugate Quadrivalent MCV4 | Twelve months |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| OPV DTaP Hib MMR Varicella Hepatitis A | Eighteen months |
| Hepatitis A | Twenty Four months |
| OPV DTaP (Tdap) MMR Varicella | At school First grade |



Frequently asked questions about children vaccines:

Question: Why give more than one dose of the same vaccine, is it necessary?

Answer: Yes, is necessary in order to get the required number of antibodies to protect against the disease in the future. The child's immune system requires several doses as proven by studies and researches.

Question: Can a dose be postponed?

Answer: It is preferable to give the doses on time as per schedule because some vaccines are given at a young age in order to protect the child from some diseases. Postponing the dose might weaken the child's body response, so sticking to schedule doses is most beneficial.

Question: Is it safe to take several vaccine at one visit?

Answer: On the contrary, most vaccines are given in groups. However, some vaccines should be taken separately. Follow vaccine schedule and doctor instructions.

Question: When to postpone vaccines?

Answer: Vaccines are postponed in the following cases:

- Severe illness (as decided by doctor).
- When receiving chemo or radiation therapies.
- When taking immunosuppressive medications.
- When receiving blood transfusion; An antibody-containing solution must be given 3 months prior to given MMR vaccine.



Vaccines side effects:

- Pain at the injection site
- Redness.
- Swelling at the injection site.
- Anxiety and discomfort for some time.

Serious side effects are rare.

In case of fever use pediatric paracetamols as instructed by the doctor

Question: Does the child require additional vaccines after finishing the vaccine schedule?

Answer: Yes, Booster vaccines are need every 10 years like tetanus vaccine and seasonal flu vaccine. Other vaccines depend on the health status of the child, which is determined by the treating physician.

Question: Is recommended to give children the flu vaccine?

Answer: Yes it is, before the flu season (October, January) from the age of 6 until the age of 18. Especially the age group that is most susceptible to infection who are as follows:

- Children under 2 years.
- Children who have been receiving Aspirin for a long term.
- Children with chronic diseases (Asthma, diabetes, liver disease, kidney disease, blood diseases, heart diseases and autoimmune diseases).



Misconceptions:

These diseases have become rare so no need for vaccines:

These diseases are rare because of vaccines, which proves the importance of vaccines. Polio has reappeared in some countries where the vaccine was not given.

Vaccines weaken the immune system in children because they prevent the child from natural exposure to diseases:

Not true, these diseases are serious and potentially fatal or could cause permanent damage like loss of hearing and paralysis.

Vaccines can provide immunity as the child was naturally exposed to the diseases but without the serious complications.

There is an association between MMR vaccine and autism:

Not true, there is no association. The misconception all started when a British physician published an article in 1998 stating that there is a link between MMR vaccine and autism. The magazine's chief editor commented that this was just theoretical and yet to be proven. Media activists used that to launch a war against vaccines, which led to panic amongst mothers for their children and stopped given them the vaccine.

Later, the American Pediatric Academy, CDC and European research centers ran studies and then published that disprove the link between MMR vaccine and autism.

In 2010 the British Medical Counsel withdrew the Lancet Magazine article because of misleading information. After investigations, the British doctor's license was drawn.

There is no link between MMR vaccine and autism. Autism incidence was lower in MMR vaccinated children.

Dear mother – Dear Father:

Vaccines are very important for your child's health and the society's health in general. This will ensure a community free of infectious diseases thanks to vaccines.

Please comply with your child's vaccine schedule.