


CAN PCV BE CO-ADMINISTRATED WITH OTHER VACCINES? WOULD THAT INCREASE THE ADVERSE EVENT?

Yes, PCV can be administered concurrently with other childhood immunizations* by using a separate syringe for the injection of each vaccine and administering each vaccine at a different site.

Simultaneously administering the most widely used live and inactivated vaccines have produced the rates of adverse reactions similar to those observed when the vaccines are administered separately.³

*DTPa, Hib, IPV, Hepatitis B, MMR and Varicella vaccine.









ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS OF RECEIVING VACCINATION AGAINST PnD TO THE COMMUNITY?

Data shows¹⁰ for those vaccinated children, there will be a lesser chance for them being carriers, which simultaneously reduces the risk of infecting other children and adults.

References:

1. Pediatrics Vol. 106, No 2, August 2000
2. The Meningitis Centre, Australia, www.meningitis.com.au
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4. Annals of Emergency Medicine, 31: 6, June 1998
5. The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal, Vol. 25, No. 3, Mar 2006
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7. Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases, 6th ed. 2005: 2350-2411
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9. Prevenir product monograph
10. MMWR September 15, 2005 / Vol. 54 / No. 36

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE SYMPTOMS OF PNEUMOCOCCAL MENINGITIS.

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|---|--|---|---|
|  | Fits |  | High-pitched crying in babies and children |
|  | Fever |  | Bulging fontanelle in babies |
|  | Vomiting |  | Joint and/or muscle pain |
|  | Irritability |  | Headache |
|  | Dislike of bright lights |  | Stiff neck(not always with young children) |
|  | Drowsiness, confusion
loss of consciousness | | |

SYMPTOMS CAN LOOK LIKE THE FLU AND NOT ALL SYMPTOMS MAY BE PRESENT. IF YOU ENCOUNTER WITH THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS, URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION IS REQUIRED.

Vaccinate your child against pneumococcal disease





WHAT IS PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE (PnD)?

Pneumococcal disease describes a group of illnesses caused by the bacterium ***Streptococcus pneumoniae***, also known as pneumococcus. It is a serious infection that occurs most commonly in children, particularly those **under 2 years of age**¹.

The pneumococcus bug can cause **meningitis** (infection of the lining of the brain or spinal cord), **bacteraemia** (blood infection), **pneumonia** (infection of the lung), as well as **otitis media** (infection in the middle ear)².

Previous research done in Hong Kong shows³, the incidence of invasive pneumococcal disease for children aged ≤ 2 years is the highest. Thus, parents must pay extra attention to this.



HOW SERIOUS IS (PnD)?

Disease	Consequences
Meningitis	Blindness, deafness, permanent disabilities, mental retardation and death within 24 hours ² .
Bacteraemia	Can develop into meningitis, pneumonia or even death ⁴ .
Pneumonia	Can develop into pleural effusion which requires chest operation ⁵ .
Otitis media	Ear tube placement, temporary hearing loss ⁶ .



WHEN DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE VACCINATED WITH THE CONJUGATE VACCINE?

The recommended age to start the vaccination course with the conjugate vaccine is 2 months old, but children as young as 6 weeks of age may also be vaccinated, if needed. The number of doses in the course depends on the child's age when first vaccinated.

Standard vaccination schedule for babies younger than 6 months*

Dose	Age at Dose
Dose 1	2 months
Dose 2	4 months
Dose 3	6 months
Dose 4	12-15 months

* Only conjugate vaccine can be used for children younger than 2 years of age

Vaccination schedule for children receiving first dose after 7 months of age

Age at First Dose	Number of Doses Needed
7-11 months of age	3**
12-23 months of age	2***
≥ 24 months of age	1

** First and second doses given one month apart; third dose should be given at 12 months of age

*** Doses given two months apart



HOW CAN MY CHILD BECOME INFECTED WITH PnD?

Pneumococcus is commonly found in the nose and throat of healthy children and adults⁷. Individuals who carry ***S. pneumoniae*** do not show symptoms of the disease noticeably. Thus it is difficult to detect and prevent.



HOW DO WE TAKE PRECAUTIONS AND HELP PROTECT CHILDREN AGAINST S. PNEUMONIAE?

In Mar 2007, **World Health Organization (WHO)**⁸ considers pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) should be a priority for inclusion in national childhood immunization programmes. To maximize the benefits of the vaccine, routine PCV should be initiated before 6 months of age and may start as early as 6 weeks of age.



WHAT ARE THE ADVERSE REACTION AFTER RECEIVING PCV?

Overall, children receiving PCV had local and systemic adverse reactions that were mild, transients, and similar to those reported with other licensed childhood vaccine such as injection site reactions, fever, irritability, drowsiness, restless sleep, decreased appetite, vomiting and diarrhea⁹.