

6-in-1 vaccine

Parent information leaflet

What is the 6-in-1 vaccine?

The 6 in 1 vaccine protects your baby against six diseases: diphtheria, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), pertussis (whooping cough), polio and tetanus.

What are these diseases?

Diphtheria is a bacterial infection that can cause a thick coating in the nose, throat or airway.

Symptoms: sore throat, fever, headache and fast heart rate.

Possible complications: severe breathing problems, heart failure or paralysis.

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that affects the liver and can cause lifelong infection.

Possible complications: cirrhosis, cancer or liver failure.

Hib is a bacterial infection that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain), septicaemia (blood poisoning), epiglottitis (swelling in the throat), and ear infections.

Symptoms: fever, vomiting, headache and a stiff neck.

Pertussis (Whooping cough) is a bacterial infection that causes an irritating cough that gradually gets worse. There may be a characteristic “whoop” sound.

Symptoms: cough and vomiting,

Possible complications: severe breathing difficulties, pneumonia, fits and brain damage.

Polio is a viral infection that affects the nervous system and can cause paralysis

Tetanus (lock jaw) is a disease that causes painful muscle spasms, convulsions and difficulty in breathing. It can be fatal.

All of the above are very serious illnesses that can lead to death.

Who should be vaccinated with 6-in-1?

The 6-in-1 vaccination is given to babies at 2, 4 and 6 months. You should bring your child to your family doctor (GP) to get the vaccine free of charge.

Is it safe to get more than one vaccine at the same time?

Yes, it is safe. The vaccines are timed to give your baby the best protection.

What to expect after the vaccine

Some children may have discomfort, redness and swelling where the injection was given.

They may be irritable and have a fever. If this happens you can give them infant paracetamol or ibuprofen.

You should also give them plenty to drink. Make sure they are not too warm and that their clothes are not rubbing against the injection area.

Who should not receive the 6-in-1 vaccine?

The 6-in-1 vaccine is safe for most people. However, your child should not get it if they have a true allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or to any part of a vaccine.

If you are worried about your baby call your family doctor immediately.

For more information

- Contact your family doctor or public health nurse
- Get a copy of “Your Childs Immunisations – A Guide for Parents” which is available from your public health nurse.