

What to expect after the vaccine

Some children may have discomfort, redness or swelling where the injection was given. They may be irritable and have a raised temperature.

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 Hib vaccine?

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

You should delay getting the vaccine for your child if they have a fever higher than 38°C.

Remember

Hib vaccine only protects against Hib meningitis and septicaemia caused by Hib disease.

There are other causes of meningitis and septicaemia so you need to know the symptoms to look out for. These may include:

- fever,
- refusing food,
- pale or blotchy skin, spots or a rash, or
- drowsiness or difficulty in waking.

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 child's immunisations – a guide for parents', which is available from your public health nurse.



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immunisation



Hib vaccine

parent information leaflet



Hib vaccine Information for parents



What is Hib?

Hib stands for haemophilus influenzae type B. These are bacteria that can cause serious infection in children and in people with a weak immune system.



This vaccine is available free from your GP.



How is Hib spread?

The bacteria that cause Hib live in the nose and throat. A person who carries the bacteria can spread Hib by coughing, sneezing or even breathing.

What illnesses does it cause?

Hib can cause serious illness including:

- meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain),
- septicaemia (blood poisoning),
- epiglottitis (swelling in the throat that causes choking),
- osteomyelitis (infection of the bone).

Who is most at risk?

Hib disease is most common in children under four. Babies under one year of age are especially at risk.

Is there a vaccine against Hib?

Since 1992, Hib vaccine has been offered to all children as part of the childhood immunisation programme. Babies born on or after 1 July 2008 should receive the 6-in-1 vaccine – which contains the Hib vaccine as well as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio and hepatitis B – at 2, 4 and 6 months.

Does my child need a Hib booster?

After the Hib vaccine was introduced, the number of cases of Hib disease went down dramatically. However, in 2004 there were a small number of cases of Hib disease in children who were fully vaccinated. A booster is now included in the immunisation programme.

To have extra protection against Hib infection, your child should get the booster at 13 months, at the same time as their Men C vaccine.