



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 6-in-1 vaccine?

The 6-in-1 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 dose or to any part of the 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 child's immunisations – a guide for parents', which is available from your public health nurse.



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Visit www.immunisation.ie or www.hspe.ie

immunisation



6-in-1 vaccine

parent information leaflet



6-in-1 vaccine Information for parents



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), polio, tetanus and whooping cough.



This vaccine is available free from your GP.

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:* heart failure, paralysis, severe breathing problems or difficulty in swallowing.

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), bronchitis and ear infections. *Symptoms:* fever, vomiting, headache and a stiff neck.

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

Tetanus ('lock-jaw') is a disease that causes painful muscle spasm, convulsions and difficulty in breathing. It is often fatal.

Whooping cough is a bacterial infection that causes an irritating cough that gradually gets worse. There may be a characteristic 'whoop' sound.

Possible complications: severe breathing difficulties, pneumonia, heart and lung failure and brain damage.

All of the above are 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.

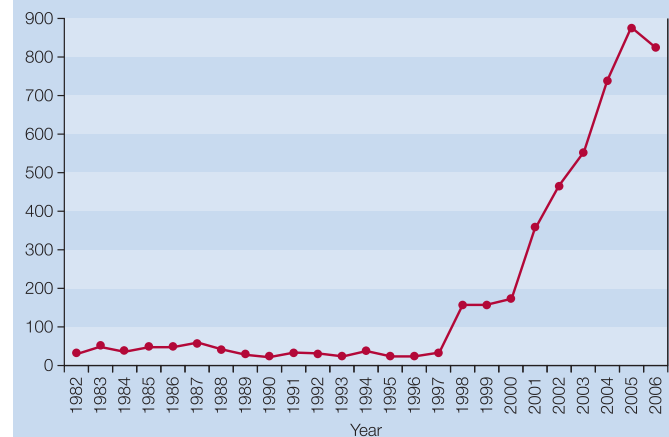
Why is there a 6-in-1 instead of a 5-in-1?

The 6-in-1 includes all the vaccines in the 5-in-1 as well as the hepatitis B vaccine.

In Ireland, the number of hepatitis B cases has increased every year between 1996 and 2005. In recent years, more than 800 cases a year have been reported (see diagram).

Number of notifications of viral hepatitis B, 1982 - 2006

Source: HPSC



Including hepatitis B vaccine in the childhood programme will protect Irish children now and when they are older. Giving the vaccine at an early age is the most effective way to prevent hepatitis B infection in the general population.