

Rare side-effects after the 6-in-1 vaccine

Some other possible, but much rarer, side effects of the 6-in-1 vaccine that have been reported in fewer than 1 in 10,000 babies include:

- high fever (above 39.5C)
- fits or seizures

Very rare side-effects to the 6-in-1 vaccine

Very rarely, a baby will have a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) after the 6-in-1 vaccine. This happens in less than 1 in 100,000 cases, and it can happen with any vaccine.

Anaphylaxis is a serious medical condition, but all vaccination staff are trained to deal with anaphylactic reactions on the spot, and babies recover completely with prompt treatment.



What to do if your baby has a serious side-effect to the 6-in-1 vaccine

If your baby is very unwell or you are concerned in any way about their health following a vaccination, please see your doctor as soon as possible.

If your baby has a fit or any serious medical problem once they are home after their vaccination, call an ambulance immediately.

Seizures can look very alarming, but babies usually recover from them quickly.

If you are concerned about how your baby reacted to a previous dose of the 6-in-1 vaccine, talk to your GP, nurse or health visitor.

Make sure your baby receives the full course of vaccine.

Every time another dose of the vaccine is given, your baby's immune response increases.

Further information may be obtained from the Child Welfare and Immunisation Clinic at the Primary Care Centre on weekdays between 08:30 and 16:30 hours. Telephone: 20070143 ext. 3244

Further information on the 6-in-1 Vaccine may be obtained from:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/6-in-1-infant-vaccine/>



6-in-1 Vaccine



The 6-in-1 vaccine is one of the first vaccines your baby will have. It is given as a single injection to protect your baby against six serious childhood diseases, namely:

- Diphtheria
- Hepatitis B
- Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Whooping cough (pertussis)



The 6-in-1 vaccine replaces the previous 5-in-1 vaccine, but the doses and times it is given are the same.

When should babies have the 6-in-1 vaccine?

The 6-in-1 vaccine is given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age. Your baby needs three doses to make sure they develop strong immunity against the six diseases the vaccine protects against.

How is the 6-in-1 vaccine given?

The vaccine is injected into your baby's thigh.

How well does the 6-in-1 vaccine work?

The 6-in-1 vaccine works well. It produces very good immunity to diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, Hib, polio and hepatitis B infections.

How safe is the 6-in-1 vaccine?

The 6-in-1 vaccine is very safe. It does not contain any live organisms, so there is no risk of your baby getting the diseases it protects against from the vaccination.

Can the 6-in-1 vaccine be given at the same time as other vaccines?

It is safe for your baby to have the 6-in-1 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines, such as the rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine and Men B vaccine.

What happens if your child misses the 6-in-1 vaccination appointment?

It is best for babies to be vaccinated at the recommended age, as they are then protected from serious diseases as early in life as possible.

If your baby has missed an appointment for the 6-in-1 vaccination, do not worry but do make an appointment with the Child Welfare Clinic to have it administered as soon as possible.

When should a baby not have the 6-in-1 infant vaccine?

The vast majority of babies can have the 6-in-1 jab, but there are a few that should not. This includes babies who:

- are allergic to the vaccine
The 6-in-1 vaccine should not be given to babies who have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of the vaccine or a reaction to any part of the vaccine that may be present in trace amounts, such as neomycin, streptomycin or polymixin B.
- have a fever at the time of the vaccination appointment
There is no need to postpone vaccination if your baby has a minor illness, such as a cough or a cold with no fever. However, if your baby is ill with a fever, it is best to delay vaccination until they have recovered.
- have a neurological problem that is getting worse, including poorly controlled epilepsy (these children should have their vaccination postponed until they have been seen by a specialist).

If your child has a history of fits (febrile convulsions) or has suffered a fit within 72 hours of a previous dose of the vaccine, speak to your GP, nurse or health visitor for advice.

What are the side-effects of the 6-in-1 vaccine?

The 6-in-1 vaccine is very safe and Side-effects are mild and short-lived. Most babies will not have any problems at all, but it is common for babies to be a little irritable afterwards.

Common side-effects to the 6-in-1 vaccine

Side-effects that are most often reported after the 6-in-1 vaccine, in up to 1 in 10 babies, are:

- pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- fever
- vomiting
- abnormal crying
- irritability
- loss of appetite

If your child develops a fever after their 6-in-1 vaccination, keep them cool by:

- making sure they don't have too many layers of clothes or blankets on
- giving them cool drinks

You could also give them infant paracetamol to reduce their fever.

Call the doctor immediately if, at any time, your baby's temperature goes above 39C.

