



# Comparison of the Effects of Diseases and the Side Effects of Vaccines

## Vaccinations for children

The following information is a summary of the effects of vaccine preventable diseases so that they can be compared with the side effects of vaccines that are used to protect against these diseases. Please read both pages and complete the bottom section on page two and return to Council with a completed Immunisation Consent form. Information taken from the Australian Immunisation Handbook (10th Edition), 2013.

Disease	Effects of Disease	Side Effects of Vaccination
<b>Diphtheria</b> Contagious bacteria spread by droplets; causes severe throat and breathing difficulties.	About 1 in 15 patients die. The bacteria releases a toxin, which can produce nerve paralysis and heart failure.	DTPa/dTpa vaccine - about 1 in 10 has local inflammation or fever. Booster doses of DTPa may occasionally be associated with extensive circumferential swelling of the limb, but this resolves completely within a few days. Serious adverse events are very rare.
<b>Hepatitis A</b> Contagious virus spread by contact or ingestion of faecally contaminated water/food or through contact with the faecal material of a person infected with hepatitis A.	Jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), fever, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, hepatic (liver) pain and malaise (tiredness). It may take up to 1 month for patients to recover and some patients may require hospitalisation. Young children may not show any symptoms but are still infectious. Patients are infectious up to 2 weeks before the onset of jaundice and for approximately 1 week after the jaundice appears.	About 1 in 5 will have discomfort or local inflammation at the site of injection.
<b>Hepatitis B</b> Virus spread mainly by blood, sexual contact or from mother to newborn baby; causes acute hepatitis or chronic carriage.	About 1 in 4 chronic carriers will develop cirrhosis or liver cancer.	About 1 in 15 will have injection site pain and 1 in 100 will have fever. Anaphylaxis occurs in about 1 in 600,000.
<b>HIB</b> Contagious bacteria spread by droplets; causes meningitis, epiglottitis (respiratory obstruction), septicaemia and osteomyelitis.	About 1 in 20 meningitis patients die and 1 in 4 survivors have permanent brain or nerve damage. About 1 in 100 epiglottitis patients die.	About 1 in 20 has discomfort or local inflammation. About 1 in 50 has fever.
<b>Human papillomavirus (HPV)</b> Virus spread mainly via sexual contact.	About 1 in 2 of cervical cancers worldwide have been associated with HPV16 and 1 in 10 with HPV18.	About 8 in 10 will have pain and 2 in 10 will have swelling/redness at the site of injection. Very occasionally headache, fever and nausea may occur.
<b>Influenza</b> Contagious virus spread by droplets; causes fever, muscle and joint pains, pneumonia.	Causes increased hospitalisation in the elderly. High-risk groups include the elderly, diabetics and alcoholics.	About 1 in 10 has local reactions. Guillain-Barre syndrome occurs in about 1 in 1 million.
<b>Measles</b> Highly infectious virus spread by droplets; causes fever, cough and rash.	1 in 15 children with measles develops pneumonia and 1 in 1000 develops encephalitis (brain inflammation). For every 10 children who develop measles encephalitis, 1 dies and 4 have permanent brain damage. About 1 in 100,000 develops SSPE (brain degeneration) which is always fatal.	About 1 in 10 has discomfort, local inflammation or fever. About 1 in 20 develops a rash which is non-infectious. Fewer than 1 in 1 million recipients may develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).
<b>Meningococcal infections</b> Bacteria spread by respiratory droplets; causes septicaemia (infection of the blood stream) and meningitis (infection of the tissues surrounding the brain).	About 1 in 10 patients die. Of those that survive, 1 in 30 has severe skin scarring or loss of limbs, and 1 in 30 has severe brain damage.	Conjugate vaccine - About 1 in 10 has local inflammation, fever, irritability, anorexia or headaches.

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<b>Mumps</b> Contagious virus spread by saliva; causes swollen neck and salivary glands and fever.	1 in 200 children develops encephalitis. 1 in 5 males past puberty develop inflammation of the testes. Occasionally, mumps causes infertility or deafness.	1 in 100 vaccine recipients may develop swelling of the salivary glands. 1 in 3 million recipients develops mild encephalitis.
<b>Pertussis</b> Contagious bacteria spread by respiratory droplets; causes whooping cough and vomiting lasting up to 3 months.	About 1 in 200 whooping cough patients under the age of 6 months dies from pneumonia or brain damage.	As for DTPa vaccine (see diphtheria).
<b>Pneumococcal infections</b> Bacteria spread by respiratory droplets; causes septicaemia, meningitis and occasionally other infections.	About 1 in 10 meningitis patients die.	Prevenar (<2 years) - about 1 in 10 has local reaction or fever. Pneumovax23 (>2 years) - about 1 in 2 has a local reaction.
<b>Polio</b> Contagious virus spread by faeces and saliva; causes fever, headache and vomiting and may progress to paralysis.	While many infections cause no symptoms, about 1 in 20 hospitalised patients die and 1 in 2 patients who survive is permanently paralysed.	Local redness, pain and swelling at the site of injection are common. Up to 1 in 10 has fever, crying and decreased appetite.
<b>Rotavirus</b> Virus spread by faecal-oral route; causes gastroenteritis which can be severe.	In children less than 5 years of age, rotavirus infections in Australia account for approximately 10,000 hospitalisations every year, approximately 115,000 children visit a GP and approximately 22,000 children require an Emergency Department visit. Illness may range from mild, watery diarrhoea of limited duration to severe dehydrating diarrhoea and fever which can result in death.	1-3 in 100 vaccine recipients may develop diarrhoea or vomiting in the week following vaccine administration.
<b>Rubella</b> Contagious virus spread by droplets; causes fever, rash and swollen glands, but causes severe malformations in babies of infected pregnant women.	About 5 in 10 patients develop a rash and painful swollen glands; 5 in 10 adolescents and adults have painful joints; 1 in 3000 develops thrombocytopenia (bruising or bleeding); 1 in 6000 develops inflammation of the brain; 9 in 10 babies infected during the first 10 weeks after conception will have major congenital abnormality (including deafness, blindness or heart defects).	About 1 in 10 has discomfort, local inflammation or fever. About 1 in 20 has swollen glands, stiff neck or joint pains. About 1 in 20 has a rash which is non-infectious. Thrombocytopenia (bruising or bleeding) occurs after a first dose of MMR at a rate of about 1 in 30, 500.
<b>Tetanus</b> Caused by toxin of bacteria in soil; causes painful muscle spasms, convulsions, lockjaw.	About 3 in 100 patients die. The risk is greatest for the very young or old.	As for DTPa vaccine (see diphtheria).
<b>Varicella (chickenpox)</b> Highly contagious virus; causes low grade fever and vesicular rash. Reactivation of the virus later in life causes herpes zoster (shingles).	1 in 100,000 patients develop encephalitis (brain inflammation). About 3 in 100,000 patients die. Infection during pregnancy can result in congenital malformations in the baby. Onset of infection in the mother from 5 days before to 2 days after delivery results in severe infection in the newborn baby in one-third of cases.	About 1 in 5 has local reaction or fever. A mild varicella like rash may develop in 3-5 in 100 recipients.

**I have read all the information provided comparing the effects of diseases and the side effects of vaccines and give permission for my child to be vaccinated.**

**The child being vaccinated is in the care of the following person**

Parent/Legal Guardian's name

Child's name (to be vaccinated)

Full name




Parent/Legal Guardian's signature

Date