

IMMUNISATION

COMMON OBSERVED REACTIONS TO VACCINES AND WHAT TO DO

ALL VACCINE NEEDLES (INJECTIONS) MAY CAUSE THE FOLLOWING REACTIONS:



Mild fever
<38.5
short
lasting



Where the needle was
given: Sore, red, burning,
itching or swelling for 1-2
days and/or small, hard
lump for a few weeks



Grizzly, unsettled
and unhappy

SOME VACCINE NEEDLES (INJECTIONS) MAY CAUSE ADDITIONAL REACTIONS:

DTPa-Hib-Hep B-Polio vaccine:
diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-
hepatitis B-polio-haemophilus
influenzae B



Not hungry

Given

Pneumococcal vaccine



Sleepy

Given

Varicella zoster vaccine:
varicella/chicken pox
After 5-26 days



Mild rash where needle given; may
spread to other parts of the body

Given

MMR vaccine:
measles-mumps-rubella
After 5-12 days



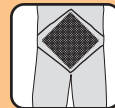
Light rash (not infectious)

Given

Meningococcal C vaccine



Headache



Not hungry

Given

WHAT TO DO AT HOME:



Give paracetamol, in
accordance with the
directions on the pack.
If hot, grizzly or for sore
injection site as needed



Do not put
on lots of
clothes or
blankets if
hot



Give
extra
fluids



Put a cold
wet cloth on
the injection
site if it is
sore

WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE:



Paracetamol is
needed for more than
1 or 2 days



Side effects are bad and
not going away. Or, if you
are worried at all

Alliance of NSW Divisions
A vital link for general practice

Immunisation
saves lives

COMMONLY OBSERVED REACTIONS TO VACCINES ON THE NATIONAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

DTPa-*hib*-*hep b*-*polio*

- Irritable, crying, unsettled and generally unhappy
- Drowsiness or tiredness
- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)
- Low grade temperature (fever)
- Muscle aches

Rotavirus

- 1-3 in 100 recipients may develop vomiting and diarrhoea up to 7 days after vaccination

23vPPV & 7vPCV (*pneumococcal*)

- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)
- Low grade temperature (fever)

MenCCV (*meningococcal C*)

- Irritable, crying, unsettled and generally unhappy
- Loss of appetite
- Headache (usually observed in adolescent/adults)
- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)
- Low grade temperature (fever)

MMR (*measles/mumps/rubella*)

- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)

Seen 7 to 10 days after vaccination:

- Low grade temperature (fever) lasting 2-3 days
- Faint red rash (not infectious)
- Head cold and/or runny nose, cough and/or puffy eyes
- Drowsiness or tiredness
- Swelling of salivary glands

Hib (*haemophilus influenzae*)

- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)
- Low grade temperature (fever)

VZV (*varicella/chicken pox*)

- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)
- Low grade temperature (fever)

Seen 5-26 days after vaccination:

- few small red lumps or blisters (2-5 lesions) usually at injection site which occasionally covers other parts of the body

Hep B (*hepatitis B*)

- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)
- Low grade temperature (fever)

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Low grade temperature (fever)
- Mild nausea
- Mild headache

Adult DTP (*diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis*)

- Drowsiness or tiredness
- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)
- Low grade temperature (fever)
- Muscle aches

Influenza

- Drowsiness or tiredness
- Muscle aches
- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)
- Low grade temperature (fever)

Adult dT (*diphtheria/tetanus*)

- Localised pain, redness and swelling at injection site
- Occasionally injection site nodule – may last many weeks (no treatment needed)
- Low grade temperature (fever)

NOTE TO IMMUNISATION PROVIDERS: PLEASE INDICATE THE VACCINE ADMINISTERED BY TICKING THE BOX