

# Treehouse Pediatrics

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## REACTIONS TO IMMUNIZATIONS

After children receive their immunizations, they frequently have a reaction. The risk of an immunization causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small. Listed below are the more common reactions that may occur:

- DPT**- Children may develop fever and become irritable for 24-72 hours after the injections. Localized redness, swelling or tenderness may occur at the injection site and a knot below the skin may persist for several weeks as this immunization is correctly given into the muscle. Any high pitched screams, fever greater than 102.5, severe irritability or neurological changes should be reported.
- MMR**- Children may develop a rash, cough, irritability, or fever, 7-14 days following the injection. This constitutes a mild measles infection and should last no more than 2-5 days. This is not contagious and the child is not a risk to caretakers.
- Polio (IPV)**- There is usually no reaction to the Polio vaccine, however, some children may experience redness, and/or swelling at the injection site and/or a mild to moderate fever.
- HIB**- There is usually no reaction to HIB, although some children may have some redness and/or swelling around the injection site. Some children may also have fever of 101 or higher within 24 hours after immunization. This is rare; however, any fever over 102.5 should be reported.
- TB Skin Test**- It is important that you call our office in 2-3 days to report the TB skin results. Your child's chart will be documented. Swimming or bathing will not affect the skin test.
- Prevnar**- The reactions associated with Prevnar, while mild, could include loss of appetite, fussiness and/or drowsiness.
- Varicella**- Getting the chicken pox vaccine is much safer than getting the chicken pox disease. Most people have no reaction the immunization. Although some children experience soreness or swelling at the injection site and/or fever. A mild rash, up to a month after vaccination, can also occur. It is possible for these people to infect others, but this is *extremely* rare.
- Hep B**- There is usually no reaction to Hep B, although some children may develop a mild to moderate fever and soreness at the injection site lasting 24-48 hours.

## TREATMENT OF REACTIONS

- If your child develops fever or is irritable, \*acetaminophen may be given every 4-6 hours for the first 24-48 hours.
- If the injection site is red, swollen, or tender to the touch, a cool wash cloth may be applied to the site for 15-20 minutes several times a day for the 1<sup>st</sup> day. A warm wash cloth should be applied on subsequent days. If your child breaks out in a rash from the MMR injection, lotion may be applied to the rash to help prevent the skin from becoming dry and scaly.
- These reactions are usually self-limiting and will not persist for more than 24-48 hours. If symptoms persist or worsen, call our office.
- Remember, immunizations are not a pleasant experience for most children and some reactions to immunizations are uncomfortable. Sometimes the best medicine is love, attention, and understanding. Take care to note the immunization site and treat the area with care.

\*Acetaminophen: Many brand names are Tylenol, Tempra, Vandol, Liquipren, Panadol, and Feverol.

**WARNING:** There has been national concern regarding the use of aspirin and a disease called Reye's Syndrome. Several national associations recommend NOT using aspirin in children ill with either chicken pox or the flu.