

VACCINE SCHEDULE QUESTIONS FROM NEW PARENTS



This info is brought to you by
Vaccination Conversations
with Scientists
vaccinationconversations.org

WHY ARE BABIES GIVEN SO MANY VACCINES?



Vaccines given to children today protect against 16+ potentially serious diseases. Avoiding preventable illness is important, especially for young babies who are still developing and growing. Many vaccines are given in multiple doses, which are timed to ensure the best possible immune response and boost long-term protection against disease.

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO STICK TO THE SCHEDULE?

Vaccine timing has been rigorously tested through decades of vaccine research. Recommendations are regularly assessed by a panel of doctors and scientists that thoroughly review published studies of medical data. New vaccines added are tested for interactions with other vaccines as part of the entire immunization schedule. The timing of when a vaccine is given is chosen based on a balance between risk of disease and when the babies' immune response is optimal. Consideration is also given to when maternal antibodies (ones that are passed to the baby before birth) decrease.

CAN MY BABY'S IMMUNE SYSTEM BE OVERWHELMED BY MANY VACCINES AT ONCE?



From the moment they are born, babies' immune systems are exposed to millions of new antigens (substances that trigger the immune response). Babies are constantly making antibodies to things like normal bacteria, dust and pollen in the air, and other environmental exposures. The immunological challenge from a few antigens given in a series of vaccines is a drop in the bucket compared with what babies manage each day.

WILL MY BABY BE PROTECTED WITH ANTIBODIES FROM BREASTMILK?

Breastmilk does contain antibodies, but they are only very minimally protective against disease. This is because antibodies that are ingested through breastmilk are not absorbed into the bloodstream and only contact the surfaces of the baby's mouth, throat, and intestines.



IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE EVERY VACCINE?

Yes. Each vaccine plays a specific role in building your child's immunity. Leaving one out leaves your baby vulnerable to contracting that disease.

Have more Questions?

Contact us to talk
with a scientist today!

(607) 229-1760
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