

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine



« **VACCINATION**
is good protection » »

This vaccine protects against serious pneumococcal infections and their complications. There are many types of pneumococcus. The polysaccharide vaccine protects against the 23 types most common in children and adults.

Disease

Pneumococcus infection causes:

- Ear infection
- Sinusitis
- Pneumonia
- Meningitis
- Bacteremia (blood infection)

Complications

Possible complications:

- Deafness
- Permanent brain damage
- Death

It is up to you to make an appointment at the CLSC of your health and social services centre or with your doctor.

Next vaccination appointment: _____

Information on the Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine



Vaccination is the best protection against serious pneumococcal infections and their complications. The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine may be given from the age of 2. It is recommended for persons 65 years or over and for people aged 2 to 64 years with a medical condition that increases their risk of serious pneumococcal infection. The vaccine is usually administered only once.

The following individuals have a higher risk of serious pneumococcal infection: people with a defective spleen or no spleen (due to surgery or certain illnesses), people who have undergone a cochlear implant, people who suffer from certain chronic illnesses such as heart, lung or kidney disease, diabetes or cancer, and people with a suppressed immune system.

The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long. Symptoms experienced after vaccination are not necessarily caused by the vaccine.

Possible reactions to the vaccine:

- Swelling, redness and tenderness at the injection site (50% of cases or more) for under 48 hours
- Mild to moderate fever, muscle pain and headache (1-9% of cases)
- A severe local reaction, high fever and generalized discomfort such as joint or muscle pain, skin rash (1 to 9 cases per 100,000)

What to do:

- Apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site
- Take acetaminophen or ibuprofen for temperature of 38.5°C or higher
- See a doctor if symptoms are severe

As with any drug or biological product, an allergic reaction may occur. If a severe allergic reaction occurs, it begins within minutes and the person administering the vaccine will be able to treat it. That is why you are advised to remain at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after the vaccine is administered.

If you have any questions, ask the person administering the vaccine or contact Info-Santé 8-1-1 or your doctor.