

Tdap Vaccine

Combined tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, (whooping cough) vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection



Vaccination is the best protection against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough and their complications.

Diseases	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Tetanus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscle spasms in the jaw • Vocal chords spasms • Muscle spasms throughout the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death (10% of cases)
Diphtheria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious sore throat • High fever • Respiratory and cardiac problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paralysis • Death (5 to 10% of cases)
Whooping cough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent fits of coughing that can persist for months • Difficulty eating, drinking and breathing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pneumonia • Convulsions • Brain damage (1 case in 11,000) • Death (0.4% of cases in babies)

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, and their complications. Tdap vaccine is given to people aged 4 and older who require protection against these 3 diseases. This vaccine is usually given in Secondary 3.

Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g. redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

Tdap vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long.

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
In most cases (more than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain at the injection site • Fatigue, headache 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site. • Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed. • See a doctor if symptoms are severe.
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redness and swelling at the injection site • Discomfort, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, shivering 	
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Loss of appetite, vomiting • Irritability, drowsiness (sleepiness) • Skin rash • Swollen lymph nodes 	
Sometimes (less than 1% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small lump for a few weeks at the injection site 	
Very rarely (less than 1 person in 10,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile abscess at the injection site • Intense pain and weakness in the arm for several weeks 	

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 8-1-1 or your doctor.

