

# Poliomyelitis Vaccine

Vaccination,  
the best protection



Vaccination is the best protection against poliomyelitis and its complications.

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Poliomyelitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever</li><li>• Nausea and vomiting</li><li>• Discomfort</li><li>• Paralysis of the arms and legs (1% of cases)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respiratory problems</li><li>• Permanent paralysis (nearly 50% of hospitalized cases)</li><li>• Death (5% of hospitalized cases)</li></ul>

## The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against poliomyelitis and its complications. The poliomyelitis vaccine is given to children from age 2 months. It is usually combined with the vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, and serious *Hæmophilus influenzae* type b infections (Hib). This vaccine is also given to travellers, irrespective of their age, when they go to countries where they might be exposed to poliomyelitis.

## 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).

IPV vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pain at the injection site</li><li>• Fever in children</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.</li><li>• Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed.</li><li>• See a doctor if symptoms are severe.</li></ul>
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redness at the injection site</li></ul>	
Sometimes (less than 1% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Swelling at the injection site</li></ul>	

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.**