

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

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Vaccination is the best protection against serious pneumococcal infections and their complications. Bacteremia (blood infection) with or without pneumonia and meningitis (infection of the brain lining) are 2 serious infections caused by pneumococcus. There are several types of pneumococcus. Conjugate vaccine provides protection against 10 types (Synflorix vaccine) or 13 types (Prevnar 13 vaccine), the most frequent types.

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Pneumococcal infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear infection • Sinusitis • Pneumonia • Meningitis (infection of the brain lining) • Bacteremia (blood infection) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deafness (becoming deaf) • Permanent brain damage • Death

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against serious pneumococcal infections and their complications. Conjugate pneumococcal vaccine is indicated for all children from ages 2 months to 4 years. Immunization schedule includes administration of 1 dose at the age of 2, 4 and 12 months. The vaccine is recommended for persons who have a medical condition that increases their risk of serious pneumococcal infection. The number of doses and the type of vaccine to be received vary according to the person's age and medical condition.

Following the recommendations of a provincial expert committee, the vaccine used in the Québec Immunization Program since 2018 is Synflorix vaccine.

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).

Pneumococcal conjugate 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"> • Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site • Slight fever, irritability, loss of appetite, changes in sleep in children • Headache, muscle pain, joint pain, shivering, fatigue, skin rash, diarrhea, vomiting in adults 	<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.
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High fever, vomiting, diarrhea, skin rash in children • Slight fever in adults 	
Sometimes (less than 1% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redness, swelling, small lump for a few weeks covering an area more than 7 cm in diameter at the injection site in children • Convulsions due to fever, unusual or persistent crying in young children • Swollen lymph nodes, allergic reaction in adults 	
Rarely (less than 1 person in 1,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Episodes similar to loss of consciousness (paleness, weakness, lack of reaction), allergic reaction in children 	

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.