

Td Vaccine

Combined tetanus and diphtheria vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

June 2024

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

Diseases	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Diphtheria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serious sore throat• High fever• Respiratory problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cardiac problems• Paralysis• Death (5 to 10% of cases)
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">• Respiratory and cardiac problems• Death (10 to 80% of cases)

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against tetanus, diphtheria and their complications. Td vaccine is given to people aged 4 and older who require protection against these 2 diseases. This vaccine is usually given in Secondary 3. In order to have the best possible protection, we recommend that you receive a booster dose of the Td vaccine at the age of 50 years. Under some circumstances, an unclean wound, for example, the booster dose is given before this date.

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).

Td 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 health professional 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	

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 811 or a health professional.