

Please Contact Your Nearest Health Facility
for more for information on Pentavalent vaccine
and other vaccines used in the national
immunisation schedule.



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Pentavalent Vaccine

and Haemophilus Influenza type b



Pentavalent Vaccine

What is Pentavalent vaccine?

The vaccine combines five different antigens in one injection. Pentavalent is a vaccine that protects children against Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough), Tetanus and Hepatitis B.

Who should be given Pentavalent?

All children under five years are given the vaccine. It is given to children at the age of 2 months, 3 months and 4 months.

Is there any reason why a child should not be given the vaccine?

Yes. A child who has had a severe reaction to Pentavalent vaccine should not be given another dose. Children under the age of 6 weeks should not be given the vaccine.

How is it given?

Pentavalent vaccine is given by injection in the left thigh - intra muscularly.

What are its side effects?

- Redness, rash, swelling and mild pain may occur where the injection was given. These usually start within one day after immunisation and last up to three days.
- Less commonly, children may develop fever for a short time after immunisation.

NB: Report immediately if there are severe reactions after receiving Pentavalent vaccine.

Haemophilus Influenzae type b

What is Haemophilus influenzae type b?

Haemophilus influenzae type b is a germ (bacteria) that causes severe diseases in children.

Which diseases does it cause?

It causes severe infections, including:

- Pneumonia – an infection of the lungs.
 - Bacterial meningitis – an infection of the protective coverings of the brain and spinal cord.
 - Epiglottitis – an infection of the throat
 - Septicaemia – an infection of the blood; also called blood poisoning.
 - Septic arthritis – an infection of the joints
- Hib can also cause problems with the bones, the heart, and the skin but these diseases are less common.

NB: Hib does not cause influenza (flu), this disease is caused by a different type of germ which is a virus.

Why is Hib a problem?

Hib is a problem because:

- It affects infants and children.
- It is easily spread.
- It often results in serious illness which leads to death.
- For children who survive the disease, Hib meningitis can lead to permanent brain damage, deafness and blindness.

How can Hib be prevented?

- Vaccination of all under-one year infants is the best method of prevention.

Other preventive measures to reduce the spread

- Practice good personal hygiene.
- Ensure that children do not share toys.
- Isolate a sick child.