

Haemophilus Influenzae Type B

The continued occurrence of preventable childhood diseases emphasizes the necessity of vaccination for all children. Regular medical care includes vaccinations, which are an important part of your child's total health care. Without protection provided by the Hib conjugate vaccines (Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccines), your child could suffer from serious illnesses that could have been prevented.



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Haemophilus influenzae type b is a germ (or bacterium) that can cause several kinds of dangerous infections in children. It is very different from the "flu" (influenza virus).

H. influenzae vaccines importance

These vaccines provide protection during the first years of life, when it is easiest for your child to get H influenzae type b infection. When children are fully immunized with the H influenzae type B vaccine, they are protected against the illnesses caused by the H influenzae type b germ. Without timely immunizations, your child faces the risk of becoming very sick with serious diseases such as:

- Meningitis, a serious infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. Before the vaccine was used, H influenzae type b was the most common cause of bacterial meningitis in the world. It caused about 12,000 cases of meningitis each year in children younger than 5 years of age - especially in babies 6 to 12 months old. Of those children infected, 1 in 20 died from this disease, and 1 in 4 developed permanent brain damage.
- Epiglottitis, a dangerous throat infection that can cause a child to choke to death if not treated immediately.
- Pneumonia and serious infections in the blood, bones, joints, skin, and the covering of the heart.

Vaccination recommendation

The immunization schedule will vary depending on which vaccine your child receives and at what age the series was started. It is recommended that your child receive two or three doses of the vaccine between 2 to 6 months of age and a booster dose at 12 to 15 months.

Side effects to Hib conjugate vaccines

Most children have no side effects with the Hib conjugate vaccines. There have been no serious reactions linked to these vaccines. Those side effects that sometimes occur are mild and temporary. The possible side effects include:

- Soreness, swelling, or redness where the shot was given
- A mild to moderate fever
- Fussiness

These symptoms may begin within 24 hours after the shot is given and usually go away within 48 to 72 hours.