



POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE

(INACTIVATED)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



1. What is Poliomyelitis?

Poliomyelitis is an infectious disease that is usually contracted by swallowing polio viruses in foodstuffs or drinks. It can also be contracted by eating with unwashed hands if the virus is present on them. It can also spread through contact with fluids from an infected person, e.g. when coughed at. The viruses spread to the nervous system and can cause permanent paralysis.

2. About the Polio vaccine:

- The viruses in the vaccine have been killed (**inactivated**) so that they cannot cause polio but they provoke your body into making antibodies to protect itself against future infections.
- The Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) is indicated for active immunization against poliomyelitis caused by poliovirus types 1, 2 and 3 in infants, children and adults both for primary immunization and for boosters.

3. Who should get the IPV vaccine and when ?

- It is recommended that all infants, non-immunized children and adults not previously immunized be vaccinated routinely against paralytic poliomyelitis.
- All adults at risk of exposure to the poliovirus (**POLIO IS ENDEMIC IN AFGHANISTAN**) should have their immunization status reviewed. For those who are unvaccinated, who have a history of incomplete immunization or for whom immunization is uncertain, a primary series of Inactivated Poliomyelitis Vaccine IPV is recommended.

4. Some people should not get IPV vaccine or should wait:

- If you ever had a **serious allergic reaction** to IPV or to any other vaccine.
- If you now have a moderate or severe illness or if you're immunocompromised (be it from disease or treatment), you may not obtain the expected immune response. If possible, consideration should be given to delaying vaccination until after the completion of any immunosuppressive treatment.
- **A minor illness such as mild upper respiratory infection is not a reason to defer immunization.**
- If you are pregnant:
No clinical trials with inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine have been conducted on pregnant women. Although there is no convincing evidence documenting adverse effect of inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine on the pregnant woman or the developing fetus, it is prudent on theoretical grounds to avoid vaccinating pregnant women.

5. What are the risks from IPV vaccine ?

A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. **The risk of IPV vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.**

Mild problems:

- Soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given.

If these problems occur, they usually start within hours to a day or two after vaccination. They may last 1-2 days.

Severe problems (very rare):

- Serious allergic reactions, within a few minutes to a few hours of the shot, **are very rare.**
- Deep, stinging pain and muscle wasting in the upper arm(s). This starts 2 days to 4 weeks after the shot, and may last many months.

6. What if there is a moderate or severe reaction ?

What should I look for ?

- Any unusual condition, such as a serious allergic reaction, high fever or unusual behavior. Serious allergic reactions are extremely rare with any vaccine. If one were to occur, it would be within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot. Signs can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness of the voice or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

What should I do ?

- Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened and when the vaccination was given.

7. How can I learn more ?

- Ask your doctor or nurse. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Contact the American Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
Visit CDC websites at: www.cdc.gov/nip