



Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV)

IPV is a vaccine given with the third dose of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), when your child is 3½ months old.

IPV plus OPV provides your child with the best protection from polio.

What is the difference between IPV and OPV? Why does my child need both?

Your child needs both IPV and OPV to ensure his/her protection from polio.

OPV is given orally, providing protection in the mouth, in the intestines, and then in the blood. Protection in the mouth and intestines are important as polioviruses infect the mouth and multiply in the intestines.

IPV is an injectable vaccine that provides protection in the blood. IPV further strengthens the protection given by OPV and helps increase the overall protection of your child against polio.

Is IPV safe? Are there side effects?

Yes, IPV is safe. As with other vaccines, your child may experience mild and temporary reactions as part of the body's normal response. These may include temporary discomfort, redness, soreness and/or swelling at the injection site; or low-grade fever.

My child already received IPV. Does he/she still need OPV?

Yes, your child still needs OPV. IPV does not replace the benefits of OPV. Giving IPV with OPV at 3½ months will ensure your child's protection from polio.

My 3½ months old child already received the third dose of OPV along with other vaccines on schedule. Can my child still be given IPV?

Yes, your child can be given IPV before reaching one year old. However, it is recommended for your child to be immunized immediately and not to wait until the next vaccination schedule.

My child has not received any vaccine yet and he is now more than 3 ½ months old. Will he/she be given IPV?

Yes, your child can be given IPV. IPV is given to children between ages 3½ months and 1 year. Bring your child immediately to the nearest Health Center to receive IPV and other missed vaccines. Make sure you get an immunization card. Follow the recommended immunization schedule as advised by the health worker.



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Can I delay the IPV or any of the scheduled vaccines so that my child will not get several injections in one visit?

No. Any delay in vaccination places your child at risk of getting sick with the diseases prevented by the vaccines. Following the recommended schedule ensures maximum effectivity of the vaccines.

One dose of IPV is optimized to be given to children 3 ½ months old to ensure maximum protection against polio. If the schedule is missed, IPV should be given as soon as possible, before the child turns one year old.

If my child is sick, will he/she still be given IPV?

IPV can be given even if your child has cough, common colds, diarrhea, HIV, other immunodeficiency disorders (e.g. leukemia), as long as he/she has no high grade fever (>39 °C). A child with low grade fever (<39°C) can receive IPV. When in doubt, consult the doctor or defer vaccination until fever is gone.

Since IPV and OPV both protect against polio, is there a possibility of vaccine overdose to my child?

There is no overdose in any kind of vaccine.

When is it not safe to give IPV to a child?

Children allergic to Streptomycin, Neomycin and Polymyxin B or to a previous IPV dose should not receive IPV. Children with known bleeding disorders should not be vaccinated because bleeding may occur after injection.

Will there be cross-reactions between IPV and the other three vaccines given at the same time?

IPV will not interfere with other vaccines. Giving three vaccines on the same day will not overwhelm your child's immune system.

Why does my child need three injections in one visit?

Giving the three injectable vaccines (IPV, pentavalent and PCV) at 3½ months will provide timely and maximum protection against the diseases these vaccines prevent. Any delay increases the risk of your child getting sick from these diseases.

Is it safe to give three injections at one visit?

Yes, it is safe for your child to receive three (or more) injections at one time. Many countries have already been doing this and have proven that it is generally safe for the child to receive multiple injections during the same visit.

Similar with other vaccines, your child may experience temporary discomfort such as swelling or tenderness at the injection sites. If these happen, do not vigorously massage the injection sites. Instead, apply warm and cold compress to relieve the swelling and tenderness. Use clean cloth and water to avoid infection. Keep your child comfortable and continue breastfeeding.