



DPT VACCINE (TRIPLE VACCINE)

- 1) **Against which diseases is DPT vaccine used?** DPT vaccine is a 3-in-1 vaccine. It is used for protection against Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping cough) and Tetanus.
- 2) **What is Diphtheria?** Diphtheria is a serious infection caused by bacteria named *Corynebacterium Diphtheriae*. It causes respiratory infection resulting in Fever, sore throat and swelling of neck glands. It tends to form coating over respiratory passage “pseudo-membrane” which can cause difficulty in breathing and swallowing. Rarely it can affect also heart (myocarditis) and cause mortality
- 3) **What is Pertussis (Whooping cough)?** Pertussis is a respiratory infection caused by bacteria *Bordetella Pertussis*. It results in prolonged illness referred to as “100 days cough”. Pertussis causes severe and forceful coughing (whooping) which can cause breathing difficulty, especially in infants. Prolonged cough can result in vomiting after cough bout and reduced oral intake.
- 4) **What is Tetanus?** Tetanus is a disease caused by bacterium *Clostridium Tetani* - which enter the body through breaks in skin - especially contaminated wounds, burns and crush injuries. Tetanus results in sudden involuntary muscle contractions – resulting in locked jaw, stiffness of the body, changes in heart rate, and breathing obstruction (laryngospasm). Tetanus can result in severe complications and death.
- 5) **When is DPT vaccine recommended?** DPT vaccine was initially recommended at 1.5months, 2.5months and 3.5months of age. DPT is now being given a part of “Pentavalent” or “Hexavalent” vaccine which additionally protect against HiB meningitis and Hepatitis B – also reduces the number of pricks to the infant. Booster is to be given at 1.5 years of age.
- 6) **Are there any adverse effects of DPT vaccine?** DPT vaccine is generally safe. Minor effects include fever, pain and swelling. Rarely seizure or encephalopathy may occur.

(Edited by Dr. Sanket Kale)