



Hexavalent vaccines

Which diseases do Hexavalent vaccines prevent? Hexavalent vaccines provide protection against 6 (hence 'Hexa') diseases: Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping cough), Tetanus (DPT/Triple), Hemophilus influenza Type B meningitis and Hepatitis B and Poliomyelitis.

What are the types of Hexavalent vaccines?

- 1) Whole cell vaccines: contain whole cell pertussis component, more fever, pain, swelling
- 2) Acellular vaccines: occasional pain, fever and swelling.

How many doses of Hexavalent vaccines are required?

3 doses are required at interval of at least 28 days – preferably at 1.5, 2.5, 3.5 months of age; followed by Pentavalent booster at 16-18 months.

Why multiple doses of same vaccine are required?

Serial doses of vaccine produce a faster and higher immune response and therefore are crucial in maintaining protective antibody levels against disease.

Are there any side effects of Hexavalent vaccines?

Fever, redness, persistent crying and swelling are commonly seen after Whole cell vaccines; they are less common with acellular vaccines. For swelling after a Whole Cell hexavalent vaccine, do consult pediatrician.

If child does not get fever (especially after acellular vaccine), does it mean that vaccine was not effective?

No, production of immunity is not always accompanied by rise in body temperature. It does not indicate failure of vaccine and does not necessitate the need for revaccination.

Can older children with incomplete immunization receive these vaccines?

Older children who could not complete the primary vaccination series are at risk for infection with Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus and Polio. The schedule and choice of vaccines varies with age; consult Pediatrician for details.

(Edited by Dr. Sanket Kale)