

What is Pentavalent Vaccine?

Pentavalent Vaccine is a vaccine that contains five antigens (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type b).

Pentavalent Vaccine (DPT-HepB-Hib)

Five-in-one pentavalent

One vaccine against five diseases



- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis B
- Hib

What are the advantages of Pentavalent Vaccine?

The addition of Hib vaccine provides protection against one more deadly disease.

The number of injections administered under UIP during the first year of life reduces from nine to six.

It does not require reconstitution.

Till what age can Pentavalent Vaccine be administered?

As per National Immunization Schedule, Pentavalent Vaccine should be started for any child aged more than 6 weeks and can be given up to 1 year of age.

What is the schedule for pentavalent vaccine?

Three doses of pentavalent vaccine are included in UIP.

The first dose is given only after a child is 6 weeks old. The second and third doses are given at 10 and 14 weeks of age respectively, also in the form of pentavalent vaccine.

There is no booster dose recommended under UIP.

Is there any reason why a child should not be given Pentavalent Vaccine?

Age-a child below 6 weeks of age should not be given Pentavalent Vaccine.

Vaccination history-a child whose vaccination schedule has been initiated with DPT/hepatitis B vaccine will continue to receive subsequent doses of DPT/hepatitis B and not Pentavalent Vaccine

Severe allergic reactions-although serious side effects have not been reported, a child who has had a severe reaction to Pentavalent Vaccine earlier should not be given another dose.

Children with moderate or severe acute illness should not be administered Pentavalent Vaccine until their condition improves. Minor illnesses, however, such as upper respiratory infections(URIs)are not a contraindication to vaccination.

A child who is 10 months old has not received any immunization. What are the vaccines that can be given to this child?

The child should receive BCG, measles, first dose of pentavalent vaccine and first dose of JE vaccine(if child is living in a Japanese encephalitis(JE) endemic district where routine JE vaccine is being offered)with OPV dose and Vitamin A syrup.

What vaccine will be given to a child who has received at least one dose of Pentavalent Vaccine before his/her first birthday?

If a child has received at least one dose of pentavalent vaccine before his/her first birthday then the child should be administered the due pentavalent doses at a minimum interval of four weeks, at the earliest available opportunity.

If a child comes unimmunized after completing 12 months of age, what vaccines would you give?

Three doses of DPT and OPV at intervals of four weeks and a booster dose of DPT after six months are to be administered. Also, measles vaccine and Vitamin A solution with the first dose of dpt.

Such a child will not receive BCG, hepatitis B and Pentavalent Vaccines.

What are the side effects of Pentavalent Vaccine?

Pentavalent Vaccine has not been associated with any serious side effects. However, redness, swelling and pain may occur at the site where the injection was given.

These symptoms usually appear the day after the injection has been given and last from 1 to 3 days.

Less commonly, children may develop fever for a short time after immunization.

Should Pentavalent Vaccine be given to a child coming from a state which has not yet introduced Pentavalent Vaccine in its UIP schedule?

Yes, Pentavalent Vaccine should be given to a child irrespective of the state he/she comes from, provided the child is less than 1 year of age and has not yet received any dose of DPT vaccine.