

Q & A ON PENTAVALENT VACCINE

Bangladesh, 15 January 2009

What is the Pentavalent vaccine?

The pentavalent vaccine combines five different vaccines in one injection to protect against five diseases:

- Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) disease
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Tetanus and
- Hepatitis-B

Children immunized with the 5-in-1 vaccine do not need anymore to be vaccinated separately with the DPT vaccine or the Hepatitis B vaccine as he will get those in the same injection.

Who should get pentavalent vaccine?

- All children during their first year of age should receive three doses of pentavalent vaccine with an interval of at least four weeks between the doses. However children who have already started immunization with DPT and Hepatitis-B will complete their vaccination with DPT and Hepatitis-B. They will not get pentavalent vaccine.
- Vaccination with pentavalent must be completed within two years of age if the child starts before 1 year of age.
- Children under six weeks of age, over five years, teenagers and adults should not be given pentavalent vaccine because of the DPT component.

What is the vaccine schedule?

Age	Vaccines given	
Birth	OPV-0	BCG
6 weeks	OPV-1	Penta-1 (Hib+DPT+Hepatitis-B)
10 weeks	OPV-2	Penta-2 (Hib+DPT+Hepatitis-B)
14 weeks	OPV-3	Penta-3 (Hib+DPT+Hepatitis-B)
9 months completed	OPV-4	Measles

What if a dose is missed?

To guarantee long-term protection, all three doses of pentavalent vaccine should be given. If a child misses the date for vaccination, the child can be given the dose as soon as possible. There is no need to re-start the vaccination schedule.

Can an extra dose of vaccine hurt the child?

An extra dose of vaccine given after the last scheduled dose does not hurt children.