

Notice for Parents on BCG Vaccination

Purpose

BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin) is a vaccine against severe tuberculosis (TB) in young children. Research shows that the incidence rate of tuberculous meningitis in young children without BCG vaccinated is 0.1525%, i.e. 47 times higher than those vaccinated. In the absence of early intervention, tuberculous meningitis will cause irreversible cerebrospinal disorders (loss of self-care ability and intelligence disturbance) and accompany with a case fatality rate up to 20-40%.

Time

Infants without contradiction of BCG should be vaccinated during months 5-8 after birth or no later than one year old. Vaccinations after one year old should be accompanied by the latent tuberculosis infection test (an intradermal injection test). As this will take a long time and more effort, parents are advised to have their infant vaccinated as scheduled.

Possible Side Effects from Vaccine

- Common but minor side effects: Local abscess and lymphadenitis.
- Uncommon but rather serious side effects: Ostitis or osteomyelitis.
- In Taiwan, active surveillance of BCG-related adverse events began in 2007. Data shows that the incidence rate of Ostitis/Osteomyelitis is about 55 cases per million population, falling within WHO estimates.

Source	Side Effects	Ostitis/osteomyelitis	Disseminated BCG Infection
Taiwan surveillance data (generation born after 2008-2009)		55 cases/million population	0 case/million population
WHO 2000 Report		2-700 cases/million population	2 cases/million population

Cautions before Five

Parents should alert physicians of BCG vaccination when young children have probable side effects such as local abscess or swelling or contact local public health bureaus (health centers) to refer their children to a pediatrician (or ask for joint consultation with pediatricians) to clarify the condition. Parents of children with probable or confirmed side effects from BCG may apply for relief for victims from vaccination through the assistance of local public health bureaus.

Before vaccination

- Verify if either of both parent(s) have family history of primary immunodeficiency (e.g. death caused by infection of unknown origin). Also, children of parent(s) with HIV should consult an infectious disease specialist before vaccination.

During vaccination

- Infants aged 5-8 months are very active, parents should properly secure them to facilitate vaccination according to the instructions of health professionals, so as to ensure smooth vaccination.

After vaccination

- Parents should regularly trim the fingernails of their infants. After vaccination, they should cover the wound with gauze and tape or wear long-sleeve for their infants to prevent them from scratching the injection site which may cause unnecessary infection.

Normal Condition after Vaccination

Weeks 1-2

There will be a small red nodule on the injection point. It will grow gradually with minor pain and itchiness, but never with a fever.



Weeks 4-6

An abscess or ulcer will develop. Do not medicate or dress it, just keep it clean and dry. If pus comes out, clean it with sterile gauze or cotton. Do not squeeze it.



Months 2-3

Scab will form automatically and leave a small pink scar. After some time the scar will turn into the skin color.



Other Information

For more information about BCG, please visit the website of Centers for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Welfare, R.O.C. (TAIWAN) at <http://www.cdc.gov.tw>.

Reply from Parents

We have read through the "Notice for Parents on BCG Vaccination" and have received the health education from health professionals administering the vaccination.

Name of infant: _____ (or son/daughter of _____)

Signature of parent: _____ Signature of administrator: _____



Taiwan CDC cares about you.