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URL of this page: Vaccines are injections (injections), liquids, tablets or nasal sprays that you take to teach the immune system to recognize and defend against harmful germs. They contain germs (or parts of germs) that cause diseases. Germs are killed or weakened enough that they won't make your child sick. But they will trigger an immune response, which helps the body fight germs. Your child's immune system will also remember the germ and attack it if that germ ever strikes again. This protection against a particular disease is called immunity. Why do I have to vaccinate my child? Babies are born with an immune system that can fight most germs, but there are some serious diseases that they can not stand. That's why they need vaccines to strengthen their immune system. These diseases once killed or harmed many infants, children and adults. But now with vaccines, your child can get immunity from these diseases without getting sick. Vaccinating your child also protects others. Normally, germs can travel quickly through the community and make a lot of people sick. If enough people get sick, it can lead to an outbreak. But when enough people are vaccinated against a particular disease, it is more difficult for this disease to spread to others. This means that the whole community is less likely to get the disease. Community immunity is especially important for people who cannot get certain vaccines. For example, they may not be able to get the vaccine because they have a weakened immune system. Others may be allergic to certain vaccine ingredients. And the newborns are too little to get any vaccines. Community immunity can help protect all of them. Are vaccines safe for children? Vaccines are safe. They must undergo extensive security testing and evaluations before they are approved in the U.S. Some people worry that childhood vaccines could cause autism spectrum disorder (ASD). But many scientific studies have looked into this and found no link between vaccines and autism. Can vaccines overload my child's immune system? No. vaccines don't overload the immune system. Every day, the immune system of a healthy child successfully fights thousands of germs. When your child gets vaccines, they become weakened or dead germs. So, even if they get several vaccines in one day, they are exposed to a small amount of germs compared to what they encounter daily in their surroundings. When should I vaccinate my child? It is important to vaccinate your child at the right time. This makes sure your child gets immunity before being exposed to potentially life-threatening illnesses. Your child will receive vaccines during a visit to children well. It will be made according to the schedule of the vaccine. This schedule lists which vaccines are recommended for children. It includes who should get the vaccines, how many doses they need and at what age they should get them. In the United States Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a vaccine schedule. Each item on this page was selected by the Editor of Woman's Day. We can earn a commission on some of the items you choose to buy. Make sure your children are up to date with our handy Checklist Jul 23, 2008 WD Immunization Checklist - Upload a Document to Scribd Read this document on Scribd: WD Immunization Checklist This content is created and maintained by a third party and imported to this page so that users can provide their email addresses. More information about this and similar content may be found on piano.io Ad - Read on below This schedule of recommended immunizations may vary depending on where you live, your child's health, type of vaccine and available vaccines. Some of the vaccines can be given as part of a combined vaccine so that the child receives fewer injections. Talk to your doctor about what vaccines your children need. Birth of HEPB: Hepatitis B vaccine. Ideally, the first dose is given within 24 hours of birth, but children who have not previously been vaccinated can get it at any age. Some children of low birth weight will get it in 1 month or when they are discharged from the hospital. 1-2 months Of HepB: The second dose should be given 1 to 2 months after the first dose. 2 months DTaP: Diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis vaccine Hib: Haemophilus influenzae type B IPV vaccine: Inactivated poliovirus vaccine PCV: Vaccine against pneumococcal conjugation RV: Rotavirus vaccine 4 months 6 months DTaP Hib: This third dose may be required, depending on the brand of vaccine used in previous Hib immunisations. PCV RV: This third dose may be required, depending on the brand of vaccine used in previous RV immunizations. 6 months and a year Flu (flu): Flu vaccine is recommended every year for children 6 months and older: Children under 9 years of age who get the flu vaccine for the first time (or who have had only 1 dose of the vaccine in the past) will receive it in 2 separate doses at least one month apart. Children under 9 years of age who have previously had at least 2 doses of flu vaccine (at any one time) will only need 1 dose. Children over 9 years of age need only 1 dose. The vaccine is given by injection with a needle (flu vaccine) or nasal spray. Both types of vaccines can be used this flu season (2020-2021) as they seem to work equally well. Your doctor will recommend which ones to use based on your child's age and general health. Nasal spray is only for healthy people aged 2 to 49 years. People with weak immune systems or some medical conditions (such as asthma) and pregnant women should not get the nasal spray vaccine. 6-18 months 12-15 months 12-23 months Hepa: Hepatitis A vaccine; as 2 injections at least 6 months apart 15-18 months apart 4-6 years 11-12 years HPV: Human papillomavirus vaccine, given in injections for a period of 6 to 12 months. It can be given already at the age of 9 years. For teenagers and young adults (aged 15 to 26 years in girls and boys), it is given in 3 shots for 6 months. Recommended for both and boys to prevent genital warts and some cancers. Tdap: Tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough booster. It is also recommended during every pregnancy a woman has. Meningococcal conjugation vaccine: And a booster dose is recommended at the age of 16. 16-18 years Meningococcal B vaccine (MenB): The MenB vaccine can be given to children and teens in 2 or 3 doses, depending on the brand. Unlike the meningococcal conjugated vaccine, which is recommended, the decision on the vaccine against MenB is made by teenagers, their parents and the doctor. The special circumstances of HepA can be given as early as the age of 6 months to babies who will travel to a place where hepatitis A is common (they will still need routine vaccination after their first birthday). It is also recommended for older children who have not received it in the past. The MMR vaccine can be given to babies at 6 months of age if they are going to travel abroad. These children should still receive the recommended routine doses between the ages of 12 and 15 months and 4-6 years, but they may get the second dose as early as 4 weeks after the first if they are still going to travel and be in danger. Influenza vaccine is especially important for children at risk of health problems from influenza. High-risk groups include but are not limited to children under 5 and those with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, heart problems, sickle cell disease, diabetes or HIV. Pneumococcal vaccines can be given to older children (aged 2 and over) who have conditions that affect their immune system, such as asplenia or HIV infection, or other conditions, such as an artificial cochlea, chronic heart disease or chronic lung disease. Meningococcal vaccines can be given to children at 8 weeks of age (depending on the brand of vaccine) who are at risk of meningococcal infection, such as meningitis. This includes children with some immune disorders. Children living in (or will travel to) countries where meningitis is common, or where there is an epidemic, should also get the vaccine. Have for example: An epidemic is when a disease occurs in greater numbers than expected in a given area. If you have questions about vaccinating your family during an epidemic, ask your healthcare professional or contact your state or local health department. Review by Elana Pearl Ben-Joseph, MD Date Reviewed: February 2020 This schedule of recommended immunizations may vary depending on where you live, your child's health, type of vaccine and available vaccines. Some of the vaccines can be given as part of a combined vaccine so that the child receives fewer injections. Talk to your doctor about what vaccines your children need. Birth of HEPB: Hepatitis B vaccine. Ideally, the first dose is given within 24 hours of birth, but children who have not previously been vaccinated can get it at any age. 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