



Important Facts for Parents to Know about

The Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine prevents serious pneumococcal infections – including pneumonia, bacteremia, and meningitis – that can cause permanent damage or death.

- Pneumococcal meningitis is a serious infection of the brain and spinal cord. About 30% of children who get the disease (or 3,000 out of 10,000 children infected) will die, and 25 to 35 percent of those who survive will suffer hearing loss and other signs of brain injury.
- Pneumococcal pneumonia is a serious infection of the lungs. About 5 percent of children who get the disease (or 500 out of 10,000 children infected) will die.
- Pneumococcal bacteremia is a serious infection of the blood stream. About 20 percent of children who get the disease (or 2,000 out of 10,000 children infected) will die.

The vaccine effectively protects about 90% or more of children who receive the full series of shots.

About half of the children who receive the vaccine have *no side effects* at all. Of those children who do have a reaction, the reactions are either mild or moderate.

- Mild reactions are experienced by 30 to 50 percent of children receiving the vaccine. These reactions include soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given.
- Moderate reactions are experienced by as many as 40 percent (or 4,000 out of 10,000) children given the vaccine. These reactions include fever, irritability, and drowsiness.
- Aspirin-free pain reliever can be used to reduce fever and soreness.

There are no known serious side-effects from the vaccine.

Your child's chance of being harmed by these diseases is far greater than any chance of being harmed by the vaccine.

- Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious infectious diseases.

parents:

Please also read the Vaccine Information Statement on the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is an important source of information about vaccines.