

**Health Care Education**  
**Vaccines and Immunizations for children**



**Hidaya Foundation**

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*And when I am sick, then He heals me. - - - Al Quran – Ash-Shuraa, Verse 26:80*

*The Prophet SAWS said: “Allah SWT has not created any disease without also creating a cure for it...”  
(Agreed upon)*

**Some Misconceptions about Vaccinations**

**Child is unwell - vaccine should not be taken:**

- Mild colds, coughs, mild fevers, diarrhea-vomiting - there is no reason to delay vaccination.

**Child is weak or malnourished - vaccination should be postponed:**

- Is the child is born premature - vaccines should be taken at the suggested dates without any interruption. In weak, malnourished children the immunity of the body is anyway low and they are even more prone to infections - vaccination is especially important for these children.

**If the vaccine has not been taken at the correct age then it can not be taken at all:**

- If for some reason vaccination has been delayed it does not at all mean that the vaccine can not be taken. All the dates recommended are the lowest ages at which the particular vaccine can be taken. In case of delay please do take the vaccines and follow the same standard schedule. The only exception is DPT vaccine - in case the child is over 2 years and DPT has not been taken at all - then replace DPT with DT.

**The gap between 2 doses can be adjusted as per convenience:**

- In case of DPT / Polio and HIB Meningitis (the ones that need multiple dosing) you may notice a gap of 1 month has been recommended. This gap can not be reduced to less than 1 month. On the other hand in case there has been a delay beyond 1 month - you may take the dose soon as possible. In no case does it mean it that the previous dose has been wasted - no way does it mean a repetition all over again.

**Can all the vaccines be taken at one sitting?**

Except MMR and Chickenpox - all other vaccines can be taken at one sitting. Please do ensure using separate and disposable syringes for all.

**Vaccination causes side effects - one should not take vaccines:**

- Whatever the side effects are faced by the individual, they are insignificant compared to the dangerous and possible lethal outcome of the diseases. The only one that causes discomfort, crankiness and fever is the DPT vaccine - this too can be taken care of by plain and simple Paracetamol.

**For every injury one must take Tetanus injection:**

- In case the complete 3 dose schedule of DPT has been taken and the Booster at 1.5 years has been taken then the child is protected till 5 years age. There is thus no need for any tetanus injection at these injuries. At 5 years age do take the DT vaccine - your child is now protected for a further 5 years.

**In case Measles has erupted already - then I can avoid Measles vaccine:**

- There are several fevers in children in which eruptions like that of measles may appear on the body. In case you feel your child has already had Measles - it is still wise to take Measles vaccine.

**At times disease occurs even after vaccination - why vaccinate then?** Though all vaccines are effective they have their limitations. There is no vaccine that gives 100% protection.