



What are Combination Inactivated Poliovirus (IPV) vaccines?

Combination IPV vaccines are new vaccines for children that contain combinations of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and inactivated poliovirus vaccine **and either** hepatitis B vaccine **or** hepatitis B **and** *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccines. Combined vaccines have been designed to replace Oral Poliovirus Vaccine (OPV, Oral Sabin®) and to reduce the number of injections required for the childhood immunisation schedule.

Why is OPV being replaced with IPV?

The main reason that OPV is being replaced with IPV is that OPV, which contains 3 live vaccine strains of poliovirus, may rarely cause a type of paralytic poliomyelitis in children given OPV or in their close contacts (e.g. unimmunised parents). The risk of vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis (VAPP) is estimated to be one case for every 2.4 million doses of OPV distributed. In Australia, two cases of VAPP have been identified, one in 1986 and one in 1995. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends IPV in preference to OPV because of the risk of VAPP.

Are the Combination IPV vaccines free?

From 1 November 2005, the Combination IPV vaccines are free (i.e. funded by the Australian Government). In Western Australia, the free Combination IPV vaccines are Infanrix Hexa®, Infanrix Penta®, and Infanrix IPV®.

Are all the Combination IPV vaccines suitable for Indigenous children?

No. The NHMRC recommends a different type of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine for Indigenous children (i.e. PRP-OMP, PedvaxHIB®) than the Hib vaccine contained in Infanrix Hexa® (i.e. PRP-T, Hiberix®), which is more suitable for Non-Indigenous children.

Thus, Indigenous children are scheduled for Infanrix Penta® at 2,4, and 6 months of age and PedvaxHIB® at 2,4, and 12 months of age, while Non-Indigenous children are scheduled for Infanrix Hexa® at 2,4, and 6 months of age and PedvaxHIB® at 12 months of age.

Infanrix IPV® is scheduled for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous children at 4 years of age.

What happens if an Indigenous child is given Infanrix Hexa® instead of Infanrix Penta® at 2 or 4 months of age by mistake?

The Indigenous child should immediately be given a dose of PedvaxHIB®.

What happens if an Indigenous child is given Infanrix Hexa® instead of Infanrix Penta® at 6 months of age by mistake?

Nothing - the Indigenous child does not require another dose of Hib vaccine until 12 months of age if he or she had PedvaxHIB® at 2 and 4 months of age.

What are the vaccination schedules for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous children?

Copies of the complete Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Vaccination Schedules are available at www.health.wa.gov.au/schedules or from your immunisation provider.

What are the side effects of the Combination IPV vaccines?

The side effects for the Combination IPV vaccines are similar to the side effects of their component vaccines. For Infanrix Hexa® and Infanrix Penta®, common (>10%), temporary side effects include soreness, redness, lump at the injection site, and fever. Less common (<1%) side effects include vomiting, prolonged crying, and febrile seizure. For Infanrix IPV®, common (>5%), temporary side effects include soreness, redness, lump at the injection site, fever, headache, and vomiting. For Combination IPV vaccines, serious side effects (e.g. allergic reaction) are rare (<0.00001%).

Where can I get more information about Combination IPV vaccines?

The Australian Government Immunisation Website: immunise.health.gov.au/index.htm

The Australian Immunisation Handbook, 8th Edition, 2003: www1.health.gov.au/immhandbook/

GlaxoSmithKline: www.gsk.com.au, or (FreeCall) 1800 002 512