

Monday, 14 October 2024

Health Protection

Advice on giving infant paracetamol after MenB vaccination

HSC Public Health Agency

Preventing a high temperature after vaccination

Some babies may get a raised temperature or fever (over 37.5°C) after having their vaccinations. This is more common after the MenB vaccine. To help prevent this it is recommended that babies are given three doses of infant paracetamol after their MenB vaccines at two and four months of age (or at three months for those babies getting the catch-up vaccination in September). Giving paracetamol will reduce the risk of fever, irritability and general discomfort (including pain at the site of the injection) after the MenB vaccination. **It is important to make sure you have some infant paracetamol at home before your baby has his/her first vaccine. If you haven't got any then you can get some on your way home.**

Where can I get infant paracetamol from?

Paracetamol liquid is very widely available from chemists and supermarkets. You can buy an

own brand (usually cheaper) or a brand such as Calpol®. It doesn't matter which brand you choose to give but it is important you make sure you get the right strength for your baby.

When should I give the paracetamol to my baby?

You should give the first dose as soon as you get home, or as soon after the MenB vaccination as possible. Then give the second dose four to six hours after the first one, and the third dose four to six hours after the second. Don't give the first dose before your vaccine visit, because your nurse will first need to check that your child doesn't have signs of an existing infection, which can sometimes be a reason to delay your vaccines.

How much should I give?

Each dose is 2.5ml. The bottle you buy should have either a syringe or spoon for measuring the dose correctly (see below).

Dosage and timing of infant paracetamol suspension (120mg/5ml) for use after vaccination at two and four months (or at three months for those babies getting the catch-up vaccination in September)

Age of baby	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3
2 months/ 4 months	One 2.5 ml by syringe or spoonful (small and) as soon as possible after vaccination	One 2.5 ml by syringe or spoonful (small and) 4-6 hours after first dose	One 2.5 ml by syringe or spoonful (small and) 4-6 hours after second dose

It's important that your baby has the recommended three doses of paracetamol after each of the first two MenB vaccinations to reduce the chances of fever.

If your baby spits out more than half the paracetamol within a few minutes of getting it, then you can give the same amount of paracetamol again straight away.

www.publichealth.hscni.net

This factsheet offers advice on giving infant paracetamol after the meningitis B vaccination that is offered to infants aged two months and four months.

Details

Format

Two pages, A4

Target group

Parents

Downloads

Attachment

Size

[Paracetamol and MenB Factsheet 1024.pdf](#) 187 KB

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