Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio

Trade Name: Infanrix®-IPV

Vaccine Protection
Infanrix®-IPV is a combined vaccine that protects against the four diseases of diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis) and polio in one needle. Vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus and polio is also required by law for children attending school in Ontario, unless there is a valid exemption.

When Infanrix®-IPV is given according to the recommended childhood immunization schedule, it protects almost 100 percent of children against tetanus, diphtheria and polio and approximately 85 percent against severe whooping cough.

Protection against tetanus and diphtheria lasts for approximately ten years, and protection against whooping cough is expected to last for at least four years, after the first set of shots (primary series) is given.

Recommendations for Use
Infanrix®-IPV is recommended for children up to 6 years of age, who are completing their first series to protect against these diseases and who do not need the Hib (Haemophilus influenza type b) vaccine. Children may need more than one dose of Infanrix®-IPV.

Vaccine Side Effects and Risks
Common side effects include mild redness, swelling and pain for a few days at the area where the needle was given. Some children may have increased crying, loss of appetite, fever, less energy. These reactions are mild and last no more than three or four days. Swelling, redness and pain of the entire arm or leg may occur and usually goes away on its own. Nausea, diarrhea, dizziness, generalized body aches and sore or swollen joints may occur however are not as common.

Allergic reactions, (which may include difficulty breathing, wheezing, hives and rash), and neurologic reactions are rare and in some instances severe. Report any side effects or severe vaccine reactions to your health care provider.

Do not get this vaccine if you have:
- a severe allergy or neurological reaction to a previous dose of a vaccine containing diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio. Signs of severe allergy include hives, swelling of the mouth and throat, wheezing, chest tightness, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, hypotension and shock.
- an allergic reaction to any part of the vaccines including: aluminum hydroxide, polymyxin, and neomycin
a brain disorder within 7 days of a previous dose of a pertussis-containing vaccine and no other cause was found (e.g. coma, decreased level of consciousness, prolonged seizures)

Delay vaccination and speak with your doctor, if you have:

- an acute febrile illness more serious than a cold
- an unstable neurologic disorder
- a history of Guillain-Barré Syndrome, with no other identified cause, within 6 weeks of receipt of a previous tetanus-toxoid containing vaccine
- had a serious reaction at the injection site following a previous dose of a vaccine containing tetanus and/or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine

Diphtheria
Diphtheria is serious bacterial disease of the throat, nose and skin. Infection can cause breathing problems, heart failure, and nerve damage. It is easily spread by coughing and sneezing and direct contact with an infected person. Diphtheria kills up to 10 percent of people who get the disease. Today, diphtheria is rare due to immunization.

Tetanus
Tetanus or lockjaw is a rare and often fatal disease that occurs when the tetanus bacteria gets into a deep cut in the skin. Tetanus causes severe cramping of the muscles, particularly in the jaw, neck and abdomen. Tetanus bacteria are found everywhere including soil, dust and animal manure and can survive for long periods in the soil.

Pertussis (whooping cough)
Pertussis or whooping cough is a serious disease that can infect people of any age, but is most dangerous for babies. Infection can spread easily through coughing and sneezing and direct contact with an infected person. Pertussis may cause violent coughing which can last for weeks. Vomiting, difficulty breathing, seizures and even brain damage may result. Pneumonia may occur in more than one out of five children. One to three deaths occur each year in Canada, particularly in babies too young to have begun their immunization, or who have not had all their needles. Immunizing family and friends helps to protect these babies.

Polio
Polio is a disease of the spinal cord that can cause nerve damage and paralyze the muscles used for breathing, talking, eating and walking. It is spread when people drink water or eat food with the polio virus in it. Polio is also spread from person to person. Wild polio virus has been eliminated in Canada due to vaccination. However, poliovirus is still found in other parts of the world and can be re-introduced to Toronto through travel or migration.

More Information
For more information, talk to your doctor or call our Immunization line at 416-392-1250.