



Change to

DENMARK'S CHILDHOOD VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2014

Addition of vaccination against hepatitis B infection and change of the HPV vaccination programme

2014

Addition to the Danish Health and Medicines Authority's brochure on Denmark's childhood vaccination programme from 2012



Introduction

The health authorities in all countries recommend that children be vaccinated. Denmark's childhood vaccination programme includes ten diseases.

Children adhering to Denmark's vaccination programme are well protected against developing these diseases.

On 15 January 2014, a temporary change to Denmark's childhood vaccination programme took effect. In addition to the ten recommended diseases, children will temporarily also be vaccinated against hepatitis B infection. The reason for the temporary change is that it has only been possible to provide a vaccine that also protects against hepatitis B.

The above change does not influence the vaccination schedule as the hepatitis B vaccine is included in the vaccines administered at 3, 5 and 12 months.

In August 2014, the HPV vaccination programme is changed so that girls who are given the first injection before the age of 14 only need two injections of HPV vaccine, compared with three previously.

Temporary change to the diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hib, Hbv vaccine

Hepatitis B virus infection

Hepatitis B infection is caused by a virus; *the hepatitis B virus*.

The symptoms include fever, nausea, abdominal pains and jaundice where the urine goes dark and the stool pale. The disease lasts from a few weeks up to several months. The cause of the disease is often fairly mild in children and adolescents. A minority of infected persons develop chronic hepatitis B infection that may lead to later complications.

Hepatitis B virus infection is rare in Denmark, and so far the hepatitis B vaccine has only been offered to certain risk groups, including infants of mothers with chronic hepatitis B virus infection. Hepatitis B vaccination is covered by the national childhood vaccination programmes in many

countries, and globally WHO recommends vaccination against hepatitis B infection.

Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b and hepatitis B vaccine

The vaccine used against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, *Haemophilus influenzae b* and hepatitis B is administered to children three times: at 3, 5 and 12 months.

The vaccine comprises completely detoxified components of the toxoids of the bacteria that cause diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, inactivated poliovirus, components of the hepatitis B virus as well as components of the inactivated *Haemophilus influenza type b* bacteria.

For how long is the vaccination effective?

The three vaccinations effectively protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio until children reach 5-6 years of age.

Children should receive a booster vaccination at 5 years of age against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio and will then be protected against diphtheria and tetanus for a further 10 years. The period of effective protection against pertussis is probably the same.

Protection against polio after this booster vaccination is considered to be life-long.

Three vaccinations against hepatitis B infection and *Haemophilus influenza type b* are assumed to completely protect children, and they do not need booster vaccinations.

What are the side effects of the diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hib, Hbv vaccine?

The most frequent side effects are reddening and tenderness at the vaccination site. A few children experience fever and general malaise the first few days after vaccination. Some children will experience febrile seizures, especially children who tend to get these.

The Danish Health and Medicines Authority recommends that the Danish package leaflet for the vaccine is handed out to the parents when the vaccine is administered.

Children who are administered a hepatitis B vaccine once or twice will subsequently be offered a follow-up hepatitis B vaccination to ensure that all children who start on a hepatitis B vaccination series are offered a total of three doses.

Change of the HPV vaccination programme

There are no changes to the HPV vaccine used, but from August 2014 the following changes are made to the administration of the vaccine:

- Girls who, under the current programme, have been given the second injection less than six months after the first injection, are still recommended to have the third injection.
- In future, girls who are given the first injection before the age of 14 should only have two injections, provided that the second injection is given at least six months after the first injection.
- Girls who start the programme after the age of 14 are still recommended to have three injections.

Regardless of which programme is followed, it is recommended to have the injections over a period of around one year.

The HPV vaccine is only effective if girls are vaccinated before they may become infected by the virus that the vaccine can protect against. Therefore, girls should be vaccinated as early as possible – and preferably before they start being sexually active. The Danish Health and Medicines Agency recommends that the HPV vaccine is given to girls at around 12 years of age. The HPV vaccination is free of charge for girls under the age of 18.

Monitoring the childhood vaccination programme

The childhood vaccination programme is continually monitored to determine if it is implemented as intended.

When a new vaccine is added to the programme, additional monitoring will take place for a period, because the vaccine has not previously been used in Denmark.

You can read more about the vaccines and potential side effects at: www.indlaegsseddel.dk

You can report side effects at: www.sst.dk/en

Childhood vaccination programme

Age	Vaccination	Health check-up
5 weeks		✓
3 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hib, Hbv ¹ + PCV ²	
5 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hib, Hbv + PCV	✓
12 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hib, Hbv + PCV	✓
15 months	MMR ³	
2 years		✓
3 years		✓
4 years	MMR	✓
5 years	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio booster vaccination	✓
12 years	MMR ⁴	
12 years (girls only)	Human papillomavirus (2 times)	
Women 18 years	Rubella ⁵	

¹ Diphtheria – tetanus – pertussis – polio – Haemophilus influenza type b – Hepatitis B

² PCV: Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

³ MMR: Measles, mumps and rubella

⁴ If the child did not previously receive two MMR vaccinations

⁵ May be administered in the form of MMR

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sst.dk/en

Danish Health and Medicines Authority

The Authority provides information on infectious diseases generally and on vaccination programmes.

See Health & treatment.

For product information on medicines and side effects, see Medicines & medical devices.

www.ssi.dk

Statens Serum Institut

Statens Serum Institut provides information on the childhood vaccination programme, the individual diseases and vaccines.

www.euro.who.int

World Health Organisation (WHO)

See Vaccines and immunization.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe provides information on WHO's objectives for childhood vaccination programmes and vaccination statistics in the WHO European Region. WHO has many publications on vaccines and immunization.

www.sst.dk

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