



## **Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib)**

### **What is Hib disease?**

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) disease is a serious disease caused by bacteria. It usually strikes children under 5 years old.

Your child can get Hib disease by being around other children or adults who may have the bacteria and not know it. The germs spread from person to person. If the germs stay in the child's nose and throat, the child probably will not get sick. But sometimes the germs spread into the lungs or the bloodstream, and then Hib can cause serious problems.

Before Hib vaccine, Hib disease was the leading cause of bacterial meningitis among children under 5 years old in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings, which can lead to lasting brain damage and deafness. Hib disease can also cause:

- Pneumonia
- Severe swelling in the throat, making it hard to breathe
- Infections of the blood, joints, bones, and covering of the heart
- Death

Before Hib vaccine, about 20,000 children in the United States under 5 years old got severe Hib disease each year and nearly 1,000 people died.

### **Who should get Hib vaccine and when?**

Children should get Hib vaccine at:

- 3 months of age
- 5 months of age
- 12 to 15 months of age

Children over 5 years old usually do not need Hib vaccine. But some older children or adults with special health conditions should get it. These conditions include sickle cell disease, HIV/AIDS, removal of the spleen, bone marrow transplant, or cancer treatment with drugs.

### **Some people should not get Hib vaccine or should wait**

- People who have ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a previous dose of Hib vaccine should not get another dose.
- Children less than 6 weeks of age should not get Hib vaccine.
- People who are moderately or severely ill at the time the shot is scheduled should usually wait until they recover before getting Hib vaccine.

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### ***TRAVEL VACCINATION CENTER***

*Somerset Professional Plaza • 1527 Rt. 27 South • Suite 1600 • Somerset NJ 08873*

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**(732) 418-1700 • Fax (732) 249 9599**



### **What are the risks from Hib vaccine?**

A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of Hib vaccine causing serious harm or death is extremely small.

Most people who get Hib vaccine do not have any problems with it.

### **Mild Problems**

- Redness, warmth, or swelling where the shot was given (up to one fourth of children)
- Fever over 101 degrees Fahrenheit (up to 1 out of 20 children)

If these problems happen, they usually start within a day of vaccination. They may last 2 to 3 days.

### **What if there is a moderate or severe reaction?**

Any unusual condition, such as a serious allergic reaction, high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a serious allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat, or dizziness within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot.

- Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- Ask us or health department to file a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form, or call VAERS yourself at 1-800-822-7967.

### **The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program**

In the rare event that you or your child has a serious reaction to a vaccine, a federal program has been created to help you pay for the care of those who have been harmed.

For details about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, call 1-800-338-2382 or visit the program's website at <http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/osp/vicp>

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