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Patient Information Forum

NHS
University Hospitals of Leicester
NHS Trust

Your child's BCG vaccine for protection against tuberculosis (TB)

TB Nursing Service

Information for Patients

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Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious infection that affects the lungs and sometimes other parts of the body, such as the brain (meningitis), bones, joints and kidneys.

Tuberculosis (TB) is still a threat to health. Protection against tuberculosis is given by BCG immunisation. The BCG vaccine is not given to every child as part of the routine childhood immunisations. It is only given on the NHS when a child is thought to have an increased risk of coming into contact with TB.

Why does my child need the BCG vaccine?

Your child has been assessed as needing the vaccine as they:

- have a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where there is a high rate of TB, live with, or are close contacts of, someone with infectious TB.
- have a history of TB in the family.

The list of countries identified as high incidence of TB can be found using this link: www.gov.uk/government/publications/tuberculosis-tb-by-country-rates-per-100000-people.

This immunisation is not available from your family doctor. We try to give the BCG immunisation within 28 days. This can be given at any time in the immunisation programme.

If your child has the BCG immunisation, research shows that it should give 70 to 80% protection against TB. The BCG vaccine is only be given once in the UK. We prioritise young children as their risk of developing serious TB disease is greater if they are exposed to TB.

The vaccine will not make your child feel ill.

How is the BCG vaccine given?

The BCG immunisation is given as a special injection in the upper left arm. At the clinic appointment you will be asked a set of questions to check your child is well enough to have the immunisation. A health care worker will hold your baby during the vaccination so we are able to get the correct position in the arm for the vaccine.

What are the side effects?

- A small white blister can form where the injection has been given. This will heal but it can take up to 6 months to fully heal. There will be no pain for the baby.
- After 2 to 6 weeks a small raised spot or blister often appears. This will slowly heal.
- Sometimes the child may develop a shallow spot which may leak a little fluid. Just wipe the area with clean cotton wool, do not cover with plasters.
- Your baby **should not** get a fever/temperature with this vaccine. This is extremely rare. If your baby gets a fever, please **call GP** or **111** for an appointment to be assessed.

  Babies under 8 weeks old cannot have paracetamol unless a doctor has prescribed this for you directly.

Do not cover the area of the vaccine with plasters, bandages.

Do not put ice or any creams directly on the vaccine site. You can wash and dress baby as normal.

If you are worried or think the site has become infected, see your doctor.

Can my child have their other childhood vaccines?

- Your child **should not** have any other immunisations in the left arm for **3 months** after having BCG.
- Your child **can** have other childhood immunisations or immunisations for travel after having had BCG. The travel immunisations **must** be given in the right arm.
- Live vaccines, such as rotavirus, live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), oral typhoid vaccine, yellow fever, varicella, zoster and MMR **can be given at any time before or after BCG vaccination.**

UK Health Security Agency

Quick links

TB, BCG and your baby

The BCG vaccine is given to babies to protect them from tuberculosis

You can scan the leaflet below, or ask for a paper copy of the leaflet, if you cannot scan a digital version.

English

SCAN ME

https://qrco.de/TBCGEN

Instructions

Enter the web address into your phone or scan the QR code.

You can then add an icon to the home screen of your phone. This enables you to click on the icon to go straight to the screening information, just like an app. Finding the add to home screen option depends on what phone you have and how old it is. If you need help, search online for what to do for your specific phone.

For newer iPhones, click on the share icon at the bottom of the screen. Scroll up or left and select add to home screen, then add.

For newer Android phones, click on the menu icon (3 dots or lines). Select add to home screen, then add.

Bengali

https://qrco.de/tbcgBen

Farsi

https://qrco.de/tbcgfarsi

Gujarati

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Hindi

https://qrco.de/tbcgHin

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Pashto

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Somali

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Tamil

https://qrco.de/tbcgtam

Ukrainian

https://qrco.de/tbcguk

Urdu

https://qrco.de/bcgur



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You can order and download more resources for pregnant women and infants here at Health Publications website: https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/Home.html or call 0300 123 1002

More information

- The Green Book - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tuberculosis-the-green-book-chapter-32
- Who should have the BCG (TB) vaccine? - https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/when-is-bcg-tb-vaccine-needed/
- The NHS leaflet 'TB, BCG and your baby leaflet' can be seen here - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tb-bcg-and-your-baby-leaflet. This is also available in other languages. Page 3 has QR codes which you can scan with your smart phone for quick access to this leaflet.

Contact details

If you need to change your appointment or feel you do not want your baby to have the BCG vaccination you can call the BCG appointment line on **0116 258 7643**.

If you have any more questions about eligibility or the vaccine please feel free to talk to the TB Nursing Service on **0116 258 3767**.

Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice
Visit www.uhleicester.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals.
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہِ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।
إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أُخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો.

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead
or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net

We are a research hospital and you may be asked to take part in research

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