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Testing your immune system when you are having repeated infections

Department of Clinical Immunology

Information for Patients

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Introduction

If your immune system is not working well you may get repeated infections. These are often chest infections. You may need antibiotics often to treat them.

We can use certain vaccines to see how well the body's immune system is working. A healthy person makes antibodies after a vaccine. These can be measured with a simple blood test. This is done 4 weeks after immunisation. If the levels are low, it may mean your immune system is not working properly. This helps with diagnosis.

What are the vaccines we use?

There are 5 types of vaccines most often used for test immunisation:

- Prevenar 20,
- Hib,
- Thypim Vi,
- Infanrix Hexa,
- Tetanus Toxoid,

None of these are live vaccines. That means that the virus or bacteria is dead. They are safe to use in patients seen at the Immunology Clinic. If your doctor considers testing with 2 or more types, these are safe to be given at the same time. They will be given as separate injections.

How is the vaccine given?

Before getting the vaccine, the nurse will ask if you have any active infections or have a raised temperature. You must tell the nurse or doctor if you have ever had any reactions to vaccines in the past. The vaccine is given at the top of the arm.

We will give you a form for a blood test. If you lose the blood form please contact your Immunology nurse for another copy.

Please go to either the hospital or your GP surgery for a blood test 4 weeks later. This test will measure your antibody response to the vaccination.

What are the risks?

A vaccine, like any medicine, can cause serious problems, such as an allergic reaction. This risk is very small. Most people having a vaccination do not have any problems afterwards. Please note you may have the following:

Mild reactions

- Redness, warmth or swelling around the injection site.
- A temperature over 37.5 degrees centigrade.

Symptoms will often start within a day. They can last for up to 48 hours (2 days). Taking Paracetamol can help with a high temperature and soreness.

These mild reactions are found after some vaccines but are rarely allergic reactions. You will not develop an infection because the vaccines are not live.

Severe reactions

- Swelling to the face and/or neck.
- Difficulty in breathing and/or swelling.

In the unlikely event of a severe reaction, please get medical help right away by calling **999**.

You were given the following vaccines today:

	Name of vaccine	Injection site	Date given
1			
2			

Contact details

If you have any questions please call the Clinical Immunology Nurse Specialists on **0116 258 6702** 8am to 4pm.

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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