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# Immunization and its ill effects

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**Abstract**
Immunization is the artificial immunity developed by the pathogen introduced into the human body by the process of vaccination. The aim of vaccination is to protect the individual who are at risk. There are 4 types of vaccination invented till date. Vaccine invented for the diseases have a specific route to administer into the body of the human organism. But Dr. Hahnemann claimed that the immunization invented by the conventional medicine world is much similar to the principles of Homoeopathy. E.g. the vaccination for small pox prepared form the virus of cow pox have similar effects as small pox. Adverse effects caused by the vaccination can be permanently cured by Homoeopathy.

**Keywords:** Immunization, vaccination, homoeopathy

## Introduction
Immunization is the artificial induction of active immunity by introducing into a vulnerable host the specific antigen of a pathogenic organism.
Vaccination is an inactivated or attenuated pathogen (nucleic acid, protein) that, when administered to the host, stimulates the protective response of the cells in the immune system.
Vaccination is a common strategy to eradicate, eliminate or contain disease (e.g. by mass immunization strategy). The aim of vaccination is to protect the individuals who are at risk of getting disease.

## Types of vaccination

**Table 1.** [1]

| Type | Characteristics | Advantages & disadvantages | Examples |
|---|---|---|---|
| Live-attenuated vaccine | Produced from live and attenuated organism. | Can't be given safely to immuno suppressed individuals. | Oral Polio (Sabin), Oral typhoid vaccines, BCG vaccine. |
| Killed | Pathogenic microorganism that have been rendered non pathogenic, usually by treatment. | Safe to use for immunocompromised and pregnant women. Multiple doses are required. | Injectable Polio vaccine, Injectable typhoid vaccine. |
| Toxoid | A toxoid is a bacterial toxin whose toxicity has been inactivated be chemical or heat treatment. | | Tetanus, diphtheria vaccines |
| Recombinant | The vaccines are produced using recombinant DNA technology or genetic engineering. | Very high level of protection is provided and immunity lasts life-long. | Hepatitis B vaccines and HPV vaccines. |

## Vaccine administration practices
### Intramuscular Injections
DT, hepatitis B, hepatitis A must be injected deep intramuscularly. Site of the intramuscular injection depends upon the volume of vaccine to be administered. E.g. Deltoid muscle of the upper arm, Gluteus muscle, Quadriceps muscle in the anterolateral aspet of the thigh.

### Subcutaneous injections
Recommended for those vaccines which are less reactogenic but immunogenic.
E.g. measles, mumps and rubella are the examples.

**Intradermal injections**
Mainly recommended for BCG injections. The deltoid region of the left upper arm is recommended for BCG.

**Oral Administration**
Oral polio vaccine (OPV) and rotavirus vaccines are given orally. The vaccine should be administered slowly over inside of the cheek to prevent gag reflex.

**Intranasal Route**
Live-attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)B is administered intranasaly. The administration device is a nasal sprayer.

**Vaccination schedule under universal immunization programme**

**Table 2.** [2]

| Vaccine | When to give | Dose | Route | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **For pregnant women** | | | | |
| TT-1 | Early in pregnancy | 0.5 ml | Intramuscular | Upper arm |
| TT-2 | 4 weeks after TT-1 | 0.5 ml | Intramuscular | Upper arm |
| TT Booster | | 0.5 ml | Intramuscular | Upper arm |
| ***For Infants*** | | | | |
| BCG | At birth | 0.1 ml | Intradermal | Left upper arm |
| Hepatitis B Birth dose | At birth | 0.5 ml | Intramuscular | Anterolateral side of mid-thigh |
| OPV Zero dose | At birth | 2 drops | Oral | Oral |
| Measles 1st dose | 9 completed months-12 months | 0.5 ml | Subcutaneous | Right upper arm |
| ***For children and adolescents*** | | | | |
| DPT Booster | 16-24 months | 0.5 ml | Intramuscular | Anterolateral side of mid-thigh |
| OPV Booster | 16-24 months | 2 drops | Oral | Oral |

**Vaccine storage and cold chain**
Cold chain is a system used for storage and transportation of vaccines (and vaccine products) in the recommended conditions and acceptable temperature ranges from point of manufacture until it is administered to the beneficiary.
Daily record → Monthly report/checking → Analysis → Annual statistics and estimates → Request for supply → Mnufacturer → Airport (International airport transit storage facilities +2 to +8° C) → Airport → Central store (cold room: +2 to +8° C. Freezer room -15 to -25°C) → District/ regional store (Refrigerators: +2 to 8°C. Freezer room -15 to -25°C) → Health center (Refrigerators: +2 to +8°C. Cold boxes) → Vaccinator/ mother and child (Vaccine carriers cold boxes).[1]

**Philosophy regarding vaccination**
**Views of stalwarts**
Dr. Stuart Close, The Genius of Homoeopathy: Lectures and Essays on Homoeopathic Philosophy: He stated that, the methods of applying vaccination to the living organism is injurious to health and also he denies that in any way it is not similar to Homoeopathy.
Dr. Hahnemann in footnote 63 of Aphorism 56 stated that small pox and cow pox are in no way similar to each other in their manifestations but cow pox helps in preventing the deadly small pox by vaccination. Master stated that it was actually the Homoeopathic principle employed to eradicate small pox. So, Homoeopathy helps in preventing the disease and thereby can be employed and should be given in place of vaccination which has its own complications.

**Homoeopathic medicines regarding adverse effects of vaccination**
**Remedy indications:** In every case of adverse events of vaccination we need to prescribe constitutional medications depending on mental and physical generals, especially in chronic complications like convulsions or eczema or arrested development like vaccinations.
However in acute complications like swelling, fever rash or swelling of glands can be treated by giving acute remedies on symptom similarity [2].

**Table 3.** [3]

| Name of the medicine | Indications |
|---|---|
| *Silicea* | Ill effects of vaccination. Suppurative processes. Cold patient, chilly, hugs the fire |
| *Thuja* | Ill effects of vaccination. Chilly patient. Fixed ideas: feels like as if something alive in the abdomen. |
| *Malandinum* | Ill effects of vaccination. |
| *Mezereum* | Bone pain, eruptions after vaccination. Pains shoot upward and seem to draw the patient out of bed. |
| *Vaccininum* | Keratitis after vaccination. Nephritis, albumunuria, haematuria, and dropsy developed eleven days after vaccination. |
| *Variolinum* | A remedy for the ill effects of vaccination: chronic eczema following vaccination. |
| *Kalium muriaticum* | Ill effects of vaccination. < in dampness, on lying down. > on letting hair down. |
| *Antimonium tartaricum* | Ill effects of vaccination when Thuja fails and Silicea is not indicated. |
| *Murcurius* | Ill effects of vaccination. Symptoms aggravated at night by the heat of the bed. |

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