

TETANUS DIPHTHERIA TOXOIDS ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE

TETANUS is a potentially fatal disease caused by a clostridium tetani neurotoxin found in soil and animal intestines. When introduced into wounds, muscle spasm occurs. While peripheral wound infections usually lead to recovery 40% of head wounds are fatal. The disease is completely preventable by immunization. Primary immunization in Canada has existed since 1940. A booster injection every ten years (5 years after a dirty wound) will continue protection. The last tetanus death occurred in 1995.

DIPHTHERIA is an infrequently occurring disease that may produce a myocarditis and neuropathy from an exotoxin produced by corynebacterium diphtheriae. The germ is spread by respiratory secretion and usually causes an upper airway infection starting with a sore throat covered by a grey membrane. The disease used to be fatal, but it can now be treated with penicillin if used before the development of myocarditis – induced cardiac arrhythmias, heart block and heart failure and neuropathy – induced diplopia, slurring and swallowing difficulties. Immunization in Canada has been widely available since the 1930's and no death has occurred since 1983.

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH) is a respiratory infection caused by Bordetella pertussis, responsible for causing 10-20% of coughs >7 days duration . Since 1990 the number of cases has increased fivefold. >10,000 cases are reported per year in Canada. The true number of pertussis cases is likely much higher.

TD ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE (ADACEL) EFFECTIVENESS wanes with time, but booster doses restore immunity. In those primarily immunized, in four weeks a single booster dose provides immunity to tetanus in 100%; to diphtheria and pertussis about 85%.

INDICATIONS for this vaccine are any person, primarily immunized, who have not had a dose of TD vaccine for ten years (or five years if suffering from a dirty wound) and who has never had a prior course of ADACEL. It should also be given as a first dose of a primary course of immunization to any previously non-immunized person.

CONTRAINDICATIONS are simply febrile illnesses causing body temperature of 38.5 degrees C in the absence of antipyretics or anaphylaxis to a prior TD vaccination.

ADVERSE REACTIONS, apart from discomfort, in 3% or fewer cases include local pain, swelling, redness and induration at the injection site. Headaches, chills, malaise, muscle aches, nausea and abdominal or joint pain occur in 5% or fewer cases.

CONSENT

I have read this information and understand the benefits and the risks involved. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions to clarify any misunderstandings that I might have had about this vaccine. I agree to the administration of Tetanus and Diphtheria Acellular Pertussis vaccine (ADACEL).

Name _____ Signature _____
Date _____ Witness _____