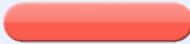




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Polio

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Quick Facts

Polio

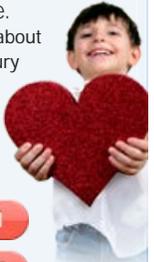
- Poliomyelitis, commonly called polio, is an infection caused by a virus that multiplies in the gastrointestinal tract. There are three main serotypes of polio virus: PCV1, PCV2 and PCV3.. Polio is transmitted when the virus enters the mouth or nose and infects the throat and gastrointestinal tract.
- In 90-95% of cases, polio infection is subclinical and does not cause symptoms. In some cases there may be minor symptoms, such as sore throat, low grade fever, headache, fatigue and nausea followed by stiff neck, meningitis (brain inflammation) and temporary paralysis of an arm or leg but there is full recovery within a few weeks. In about 1-2% of cases, the polio virus infects the central nervous system and paralyzes the muscles of the arms and legs or muscles needed for breathing and swallowing, which can lead to permanent paralysis or death. Some adults, who appear to have fully recovered from polio as children, have developed post-polio syndrome (PPS) and experience weakness and pain in muscles and joints.
- The live attenuated oral polio vaccine (OPV) can cause vaccine strain polio in the vaccinated person or can cause vaccine strain polio in a person, who comes in contact with a recently vaccinated person's body fluids (urine, stool, saliva) because the vaccine strain polio virus is shed for several weeks after vaccination. Vaccine strain polio can cause mild or severe and permanent paralysis similar to the paralysis caused by wild type polio.
- As of 1999, use of OPV was discontinued in the U.S. and replaced with inactivated, injectable polio vaccine, which cannot cause vaccine strain polio. However, OPV is used widely in annual polio vaccine campaigns targeting children in parts of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.
- Polio was declared eradicated in the U.S. in 1979 and eradicated in the western hemisphere in 1994. Today, globally it is an infectious disease that affects children living in poverty in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas, where sanitation and hygiene is poor and access to clean water and food is limited.

Polio Vaccine

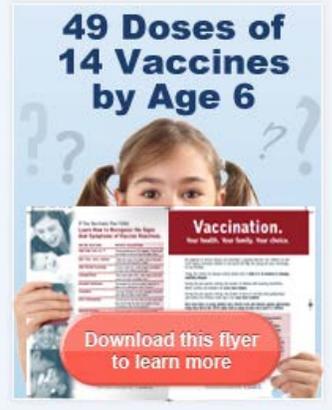
- Two different kinds of polio vaccines have been given to children in the U.S. since the 1950's and 1960's: a live attenuated oral polio vaccine (OPV), which is no longer used in the U.S. but is given to children in other parts of the world; and an inactivated, injectable polio vaccine (IPV), which has been given to children in the U.S. since 2000. Both live and inactivated polio vaccines contain PCV1, PCV2 and PCV 3.
- There are four inactivated, injectable polio vaccines licensed and marketed in the U.S. by pharmaceutical companies. Three of the polio containing vaccines are combination vaccines that include additional vaccines to prevent other viral or bacterial infections.
- The CDC recommends that infants and children receive a total of four doses of IPV with a dose at two and four months, between 6 and 18 months and between four and six years old.
- Commonly reported IPV reactions include fever, irritability and crying, local reactions (pain, redness, swelling at injection site), drowsiness, vomiting and loss of appetite. However, because most IPV is included with other vaccines in combination shots in the U.S., the vaccine

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manufacturer product insert for each combination vaccine should be reviewed to learn about vaccine reaction symptoms and contraindications before vaccination.

- The live attenuated oral polio vaccine (OPV) can cause vaccine strain polio in the vaccinated person or can cause vaccine strain polio in a person, who comes in contact with a recently vaccinated person's body fluids (urine, stool, saliva) because the vaccine strain polio virus is shed for several weeks after vaccination. Vaccine strain polio can cause mild or severe and permanent paralysis similar to the paralysis caused by wild type polio. Vaccine strain polio continues to occur in countries where children receive OPV, especially in areas where poor sanitation and hygiene facilitate the spread of vaccine strain polio.
- As of September 1, 2015, there had been 278 claims filed in the federal Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) for injuries and deaths following OPV containing vaccines, including 14 deaths and 264 serious injuries. There had been 310 claims for injuries and deaths following IPV containing vaccines, including 28 deaths and 282 serious injuries.
- Using the MedAlerts search engine, as of September 30, 2015 there had been [24,625](#) adverse events reported following OPV with [943](#) deaths (more than 90% in children under age six). There had been [60,859](#) reports of adverse events associated with IPV containing vaccines with [1,402](#) deaths (more than 90% in children under age six).

NVIC "Quick Facts" is not a substitute for becoming fully informed about Polio and the Polio vaccine. NVIC recommends consumers read the more complete information following the "Quick Facts", as well as the vaccine manufacturer product information inserts, and speak with one or more trusted health care professionals before making a vaccination decision for yourself or your child.

Food & Drug Administration (FDA)

- [Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Polio \(Pediatrix\)](#) GlaxoSmithKline and [Licensing Information](#)
- [Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio \(Kinrix\)](#) GlaxoSmithKline and [Licensing Information](#)
- [Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus b \(Pentacel\)](#) Sanofi Pasteur and [Licensing Information](#)
- [Polio \(Monkey Kidney Cell\) \(IPOL\)](#) Sanofi Pasteur and [Licensing Information](#)

Search for Vaccine Reactions

NVIC hosts [MedAlerts](#), a powerful VAERS database search engine. MedAlerts examines symptoms, reactions, vaccines, dates, places, and more.

Reporting a Vaccine Reaction

Since 1982, the NVIC has operated a [Vaccine Reaction Registry](#), which has served as a watchdog on VAERS. Reporting vaccine reactions to [VAERS](#) is the law. If your doctor will not report a reaction, you have the right to report a suspected vaccine reaction to VAERS.

Vaccine Reaction Symptoms & Ingredients

Our [Ask 8. If You Vaccinate](#) webpage contains vaccine reaction symptoms and more. Calculate vaccine ingredients for potential toxic exposures & print a vaccination plan with the [Vaccine Ingredients Calculator](#).

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- [CDC on Polio Disease](#)
- [CDC on Polio Vaccination](#)
- [CDC Polio Vaccination Information Statement](#)

National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

[NIAID Workshop Development of Guillain Barre Syndrome](#)

Other Quick Facts References:

- Vaccine Safety Committee, Institute of Medicine. [Polio Vaccines. Adverse Events Associated with Childhood vaccines: Evidence Bearing on Causality](#). Washington, D.C. *National Academies Press* 1994.
- Marx A, Glass JD, Sutter RW. [Differential Diagnoses of Acute Flaccid Paralysis and It's Role in Poliomyelitis Surveillance](#). *Epidemiologic Reviews* 2000; 22(2): 298-316.

Hearings, Workshops and NVIC Testimony

- Preventing Another SV40 Tragedy: Are Today's Vaccine Safety Protocols Effective? [US House Government Reform Transcript](#), Nov 13, 2003
- The SV-40 Virus: Has Tainted Polio Vaccine Caused an Increase in Cancer? [US House Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness](#): - Sept 10, 2003
 - [The SV40 Virus: Has Tainted Polio Vaccine Caused An Increase in Cancer?](#) - Barbara Loe Fisher, Sept 10, 2003
- [SIMIAN VIRUS 40\(SV40\): A POSSIBLE HUMAN POLYOMAVIRUS WORKSHOP](#), US Department of Health & Human Services Transcript, Held at National Institutes of Health, Jan 27-28, 1997
 - [NVIC Statement - Workshop On SV-40: A Possible Human Polyomavirus](#), Barbara Loe Fisher, Jan 27-28-1997

NVIC Press Releases

- [NVIC Cites Conflict of Interest in Government Report on SV 40](#) - January 27, 1998
- [NVIC Questions Use of Oral Polio Vaccine](#) - March 28, 1996

NVIC Article

[Live Polio Vaccine Voted Out](#), *The Vaccine Reaction*, Aug 1996

Additional Information

- [Letter to the Immunization Safety Review Committee](#), Michael and Raphaele Horwin, Jul 29, 2002

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