

TETANUS TOXOID, REDUCED DIPHTHERIA AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE (BOOSTRIX)[™]

What is Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis?

Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis are serious diseases caused by bacteria.

Tetanus leads to painful muscle tightening and stiffness throughout the body, potentially causing lockjaw, which restricts the ability to open the mouth, swallow, or breathe.

Diphtheria can create a thick coating in the throat, resulting in breathing difficulties, heart failure, paralysis, and even death.

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, results in severe coughing fits that can hinder breathing, cause vomiting, and disrupt sleep. It may also lead to weight loss, incontinence, and rib fractures.

Transmission of Diphtheria and Pertussis occurs through respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing, while Tetanus enters the body through cuts or wounds.

Vaccination Recommendations:

- Adolescents and adults who haven't received a Tdap dose or whose last vaccination was over 10 years ago should get a single dose promptly.
- Pregnant women are advised to receive a Tdap dose between 16 to 32 weeks of each pregnancy to protect their newborns from Pertussis.

Vaccination Schedule:

A single dose of the Tdap vaccine is recommended.

Who should not be vaccinated:

- Individuals allergic to any component of the Tdap vaccine.
- Those who experienced a life-threatening allergic reaction after a previous diphtheria, tetanus, or pertussis vaccine.
- Individuals who had a coma or prolonged seizures within 7 days after a childhood DTP or DTaP dose, or a previous Tdap dose.
- Those who experienced transient thrombocytopenia or neurological issues following earlier immunization against diphtheria and/or tetanus.

Possible Side Effects:

Most individuals tolerate the Tdap vaccine well, with mild and temporary side effects. Common reactions at the injection site include pain, redness, and swelling. Other mild reactions may include fever, headache, fatigue, body aches, chills, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and rash.

Do look out for any unusual symptoms post-vaccination. Serious allergic reactions may manifest as rashes, facial or lip swelling, breathing difficulties, wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, rapid heartbeat, or dizziness. See a doctor if these occur.

References:

1. CDC Vaccine Information Statements - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/tdap.html>
2. Product Information Leaflet: Boostrix