



Czech Society of Pneumology and Phthisiology ČLS JEP

Information on voluntary childhood tuberculosis (TB) vaccination and informed consent

Dear parents,

With effect from 1 November 2010, Decree No. 299/2010 was issued, which abolished the compulsory universal TB vaccination of newborns throughout the Czech Republic, except for those at risk. Therefore, only children who are more likely to develop TB according to this decree are vaccinated. In these cases, TB vaccination significantly reduces the possibility of contracting TB, especially the most severe forms of the disease.

The severity of the risk of a TB infection is already assessed in children in the delivery room based on detailed data from the parents, and subsequently by the pediatrician and specialised pulmonary physician. Your child has not been found to be at risk of developing tuberculosis and therefore you have not been invited for a TB vaccination. However, if you wish, it is possible to have your child vaccinated against TB.

Usually, voluntary vaccination is performed after the 6th month of life, at the latest at 16 years of age. However, it is always the first, “primary” vaccination. Repeated vaccination (revaccination), which you may remember from the past, should not be performed, because it has not been shown to have a significant effect on preventing a TB infection. For this reason, it is not recommended by the Czech Society of Pneumology and Phthisiology.

During a TB vaccination, a live weakened vaccine is used, administered under the skin on the left arm. For 6-8 weeks following the vaccination, a nodule or a ulcer up to 10 mm in diameter may appear at the place of vaccination; there may also be a nodule up to 10 mm in size in the left axilla or on the left side of the neck. In rare cases, reactions larger than 10 mm in size and suppuration at the site of the vaccine or nodules may occur. Very rarely, vaccination may be accompanied by more severe reactions, such as the possible occurrence of bone impairments or the spread of infection by the weakened strain in the case of individuals with severe immunodeficiency.

The disadvantage of including this vaccination in the child’s vaccination calendar is the possibility of significantly postponing other vaccinations by up to 12 weeks. Before vaccination, it is necessary to perform a tuberculin skin test to exclude the even minimal likeness of a TB infection after the accidental contact of your child with TB. Only those with a negative reaction to tuberculin are vaccinated.



The response after vaccination cannot be unambiguously predicted. However, your child will still be under the constant supervision of a physician and will be checked at the calmetisation clinic where the vaccination was performed. Any adverse reactions to the vaccine substance that would be outside the range of a normal local reaction, must be consulted with these experts as soon as possible.

Having read the above information about the benefits and risks of TB vaccination, I would like to have my child vaccinated. I am aware of all the above risks and complications. I agree with the TB vaccination.

Name, date of birth and address of the child

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Dated

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Parent's signature