

IPV INTRODUCTION

Why is IPV being introduced?

Thanks to the power of vaccines, a comprehensive approach is being adopted for completing polio eradication and elimination of all polio disease.

Since the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was formed in 1988, the incidence of polio has been reduced by 99% worldwide, from more than 350,000 cases every year to 416 cases in 2013. This progress is thanks to large-scale use of oral polio vaccine (OPV) and its unique ability to build mucosal immunity, required to interrupt person-to-person spread of the virus.

To capitalize on this progress, the global community has put together a plan to secure a lasting polio-free world – the [*Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018*](#).

Although IPV has a limited capacity to induce mucosal immunity when used alone, new evidence shows that when used in conjunction with OPV, IPV can boost mucosal immunity even more effectively than OPV alone.

By introducing IPV into routine immunization, and used alongside OPV:

- Polio-free countries are better protected against polio re-infection or re-emergence
- Children are better protected from all polio disease
- Eradication of remaining strains of wild poliovirus transmission will be accelerated

Is IPV safe?

Yes, IPV is considered very safe, whether given alone or in combination with other vaccines. It protects children against all three strains of poliovirus, and when used together with OPV, can boost immunity. IPV can be administered to prematurely born infants (i.e., <37 weeks gestation) at the recommended age concurrent with other routine vaccinations.

Are there any potential side effects?

No serious adverse events have ever been reported following vaccination with IPV, including when used alone or in combination with other vaccines. Minor local reactions, such as redness and tenderness, may occur following IPV administration.

Is it safe to receive both polio vaccines at the same time?

Both IPV and OPV can be administered to the child at the same time. It is in the best interests of the child to receive both vaccines at the same time to maximize protection against polio and minimise missed opportunities to fully immunise children.

Can IPV be given along with other injections in one visit?

Many years of monitoring children in many countries that have received multiple injections in one visit have shown that it is safe to have multiple injections at the one time. Globally, most middle and high-income countries have been safely using multiple injections for more than a decade. The IPV vaccine is effective when taken alone or with other vaccinations. Plus, for the child, it is better to experience one, brief moment of discomfort than pain on two separate days/visits.

How many doses of IPV are needed?

At least one dose of IPV should be given to children in addition to multiple doses of OPV, as part of routine immunization activities.

Should the child continue to receive OPV after receiving IPV, when offered in the future?

Yes, until polio is eradicated globally, IPV should be used in conjunction with OPV.

OPV is extremely safe and effective at protecting children against lifelong polio paralysis. Over the past 10 years, more than 10 billion doses of OPV have been given to nearly three billion children worldwide. More than 10 million cases of polio have been prevented, and the disease has been reduced by more than 99%. It is the appropriate vaccine through which to achieve global polio eradication.

OPV contains attenuated (weakened) polioviruses. On extremely rare occasions, use of OPV can result in cases of polio due to vaccine-associated paralytic polio (VAPP) and circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses (cVDPVs). For this reason, the global eradication of polio will require the cessation of all OPV in routine immunization, as soon as possible after the eradication of wild poliovirus (WPV) transmission.

Is IPV better than OPV?

No. Each vaccine has its own strengths. Used in combination, it provides the best protection for populations and will accelerate the remaining strains of polio transmission globally.

Will we continue to use IPV after OPV is withdrawn?

Yes. Following global polio eradication and the global withdrawal of OPV, IPV will be the only vaccine with which to maintain immunity levels, which will be necessary for several years after the last case of polio is reported. That is one of the reasons why a worldwide roll-out of IPV in 126 countries by 2015 – the largest, globally-coordinated vaccine introduction project in history – is underway.