DT (Diphtheria/Tetanus) Immunization

THE VACCINE YOUR CHILD RECEIVED WILL HELP PREVENT THE FOLLOWING DISEASES:

Tetanus (lockjaw) causes serious, painful spasms of all muscles. It can lead to

- "Locking" of the jaw so the patient cannot open his or her mouth or swallow

Diphtheria causes a thick coating in the nose, throat, or airway. It can lead to:

- Breathing problems.
- Heart failure.
- Paralysis.
- Death.

ABOUT THE VACCINES

Benefits of the vaccines

Vaccination is the best way to protect against tetanus and diphtheria. Because of vaccination, there are fewer cases of these diseases.

WHEN SHOULD THE DT BE GIVEN

The DT should be given to a child only if they have had a serious reaction to the DPT. The DT vaccine may also be given if there is a medical decision to withhold the vaccine for pertussis. The bad reaction from DPT is thought to be due to the pertussis part of the vaccine.

SIDE EFFECTS

In three to four hours, your child may experience: drowsiness, irritability, slight fever, redness, and swelling at the injection site. These reactions are temporary, but may last 12 to 48 hours.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Take child's temperature to know how high it is. If your child's temperature is above 101°F (38.4°C), do the following to help bring it down:
  - Dress child lightly
  - Give extra fluids
  - Apply an ice pack to the site of the injection for 15-20 minutes every 2 hours. This will lessen the pain at the site.
  - Only give your child over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- If you have any questions or concerns, or if symptoms last more than 24 hours, call and talk with your caregiver.

Document Released: 09/09/2003 Document Re-Released: 01/09/2011

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