
Letters to the Editor

Can BCG be Given Along with DPT and Polio?

In answers to the question that which vaccines can be given simultaneously with BCG, Seth has stated that BCG can be given with OPV or DPT at the same time. Further in answer to another question, it is stated that there is no harm in giving DPT and Polio on the same day as BCG(1). On the other hand Miller has stated that it (BCG) should not be given at the same time as diphtheria, pertussis or tetanus toxoid or with poliomyelitis vaccine although it should be included as a part of the regular immunization schedule for children

in high prevalence areas where it is not done through the medium of a national programmed).

I would like to know should I continue to give BCG along with DPT and /or OPV?

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REFERENCES

1. Seth V. *In: Immunization in Practice*, 2nd edn. Eds Mittal SK, Kukreja S. Delhi, CBS Publishers and Distributors, 1991, p 38.
2. Millar FJW. *Tuberculosis in Children*, 1st Indian edn. New Delhi, BI Churchill Livingstone, 1986, p 77.

Comments

Recommendation of an immunization schedule of a nation depends on the epidemiology, health infrastructure and socio-economic conditions of the nation. For any immunization programme to be successful, the national schedule should be such that it is epidemiologically relevant, immunologically competent, technologically feasible, economically viable and socially acceptable(1).

An immunization schedule is not a set of strict requirements, it is a way of

ordering priorities in accordance with children's ability to acquire immunity, the epidemiology of diseases and the different antigenic qualities of vaccines, be they microbial or viral, live or killed, single or combined(2).

Physicians are free to perform vaccination which they deem to be of value within the framework of national schedule. Certain general principles should be kept in mind while performing vaccinations: (i) A minimum interval of 4 weeks is necessary between two doses or two different vaccines unless specific short interval is stated for a vaccine. Six