



Prevnar 13

If your child is under age 5 and you have been to the office lately for a well visit you may have been introduced to Prevnar 13. If you haven't been here recently for a well visit you will likely hear about it soon. Here is what you need to know.

What is Pneumococcal disease?

Infection with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria can make children very sick. It causes blood infections, pneumonia and meningitis.

How do you get it?

Pneumococcal disease is spread from person to person through close contact.

Why vaccinate?

Some strains have become resistant to the antibiotics commonly used to treat pneumococcal infections. This makes prevention even more important. Before routine vaccination, each year in the United States in children under age five, pneumococcus caused:

- Over 700 cases of meningitis
- 13,000 blood infections
- about 5 million ear infections
- **about 200 deaths**

What is Prevnar 13?

Prevnar 13 is the latest Pneumococcal vaccine recently approved for use by ACIP-the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and will replace Prevnar 7.

How is it different?

Prevnar 7 provided protection to 7 of the most common serotypes causing disease. Prevnar 13 covers-you guessed it-the seven serotypes in Prevnar 7 plus 6 more. There are over 90 serotypes identified but only a few are responsible for the majority of infections.

Who should get Prevnar 13?

Infants

We recommend Prevnar 13 at 2, 4 and 6 months with a booster dose at 12-15 months.

For infants who have started the schedule Prevnar 13 will replace Prevnar 7 in the schedule. Extra doses or visits are not needed.

Children

For healthy children under age 5 who have completed the series we recommend a single dose of Prevnar 13

For Children with certain medical conditions (see below) the booster dose recommendation increases to age six.

Sickle Cell Disease

A damaged spleen or no spleen

Cochlear implants

HIV/AIDS or other immune deficiency

Chronic heart or lung disease

Here is a link to the Vaccine Information Sheet from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices that we give out in the office: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-pcv.pdf>

If you have any questions or concerns talk to your provider at your next visit.