



Pertussis vaccination is recommended in every pregnancy to protect baby.

Babies are at higher risk for complications from pertussis/whooping cough. Many of the deaths from pertussis are newborns, under 3 months of age. Vaccination in pregnancy allows transfer of protective antibodies to baby, until the baby develops their own antibodies through routine childhood vaccination.

Since 2012, both the UK and the United States have offered routine Tdap vaccination in every pregnancy, with greater than 90% effectiveness in preventing pertussis infection in newborns. There has been no safety concerns identified with Tdap vaccination programs in pregnancy.

Pertussis-containing vaccine

- Give pertussis-containing vaccine (Tdap) in every pregnancy, regardless of vaccination history or the interval between pregnancies due to rapid waning maternal antibody.
- Vaccinate preferably at 27 to 32 weeks gestation.
- Vaccine may be given from 13 weeks, up to the time of delivery, depending on patient's unique circumstances - such as risk of preterm birth.
- If the Tdap vaccine was provided early in pregnancy (e.g. prior to recognition of pregnancy), it is not necessary to re-immunize after 13 weeks of gestation.
- In Ontario, one dose of Tdap is publicly funded for adults.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. A patient received their Adacel® about a year ago, but came back during pregnancy because they were advised they "need their booster." Do I re-vaccinate with Adacel®, or is this coverage good for 10 years? Give Tdap in this pregnancy, regardless of vaccination history to ensure antibodies are at a sufficient level so they can be transferred to the baby.

Q2. If a woman got a Tdap within 2-3 years of her pregnancy, does she still need a Tdap during pregnancy? Yes, the recommendation is to be vaccinated in every pregnancy.

Q3. Please clarify timing of Tdap in pregnancy. I just read that SOGC recommends giving it between 21 and 32 weeks GA. The SOGC recommends immunization should be provided ideally between 21 and 32 weeks of gestational age. NACI recommends vaccination may be provided from 13 weeks up until delivery, but should ideally be provided between 27 and 32 weeks of gestational age because it strikes the best balance between safety and effectiveness data and optimal antibody transfer for babies born after 37 weeks.

Source

National Advisory Committee on Immunization: Update on immunization in pregnancy with tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and reduced acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine; February 2018. Available at: www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/update-immunization-pregnancy-tdap-vaccine.html

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, Clinical Practice Guideline No. 357 – Immunization in pregnancy April 2018. J Obstet Gynaecol Can 2018 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogc.2017.11.010> Image of the recommended vaccines during pregnancy by Abigael Krueger is licensed under [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).