

The Truth About Vaccination

We chatted with the providers at the Oyate Health Center to get the truth about common vaccination misconceptions.

I've heard vaccines can cause harmful side effects, illnesses or even death. Could there be long term effects we don't know about yet?

"Vaccines are safe and effective tools at preventing severe illness and even death. Most vaccine "side effects" or adverse events are minor and temporary, like a sore arm or a mild fever." - Michelle Gibbs, CNP



Michelle Gibbs, CNP
Nurse Practitioner



Graciela Reyes, MD
Family Medicine

I saw an article that said vaccines cause autism - is that true?

"That statement is false. Vaccines cannot cause autism. Andrew Wakefield conducted a poor research study that suggested the link between autism and the MMR vaccination. The study has since been disputed and proven false. Today, the cause of autism is a mystery. Studies have found that the symptoms of autism in children are identified well before the MMR vaccine. Some studies have also found evidence that autism develops in utero, well before a baby is born or receives any vaccinations." - Graciela Reyes, MD

Isn't natural immunity is better than vaccine-acquired immunity?

"There are some instances where natural immunity, catching a disease and getting sick, can result in a stronger immunity to the disease than a vaccination. However, the risks of this approach far outweigh the benefits. For example, if you wanted to gain immunity to measles by contracting the disease, you would face a 1 in 500 chance of death from your symptoms. In contrast, less than one-in-one million people who received the MMR vaccine had a severe allergic reaction." - Teresa Conroy, CNP



Teresa Conroy, CNP
Nurse Practitioner



Jill Maliske, PA-C
Physician Assistant

Vaccines contain unsafe toxins.

"Some vaccines contain trace amounts of formaldehyde, mercury, or aluminum. These chemicals can be toxic to the human body at certain levels, but only trace amounts of these chemicals are used in FDA-approved vaccines." - Jill Maliske, PA-C

Vaccines aren't worth the risk.

"Despite concerns, people have been successfully vaccinated for decades. There has never been a single credible study linking vaccines to any long-term health conditions." - Rachel Paulsen, CNP



Rachel Paulsen, CNP
Nurse Practitioner

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Source: www.publichealth.org/public-awareness/understanding-vaccines/vaccine-myths-debunked



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Vaccines can infect my child with the disease it's trying to prevent.

"Vaccines can cause mild symptoms resembling those of the disease they protect against. These symptoms are not a signal of infection but a sign that the body is building immunity to that disease." - Amanda Youngers, CNM



Amanda Youngers, CNM
Certified Nurse Midwife



Rachel Paulsen, CNP
Nurse Practitioner

Is it true that there is a link between the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) vaccine and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)?

"No, the DTP vaccine cannot cause SIDS. Studies have actually shown that children who had recently received a DTP shot were less likely to get SIDS." - Rachel Paulsen, CNP

Vaccine-preventable diseases have been virtually eliminated. Why should I still vaccinate my child?

"First, to protect your child. Even if our chance of getting a disease is small that disease still exist throughout the world and can affect anyone whois not protected. Second, to protect those around us. There is a small number of people who cannot get vaccinated, because of allergies, for example, and a small percentage of persons who do not respond to vaccines." - Graciela Reyes, MD



Graciela Reyes, MD
Family Medicine



Juan Jimenez Barbosa, MD
Pediatrician

I read an article that said infant immune systems can't handle so many vaccines - is that true?

"Infant immune systems are stronger than you might think. The immune system could never truly be overwhelmed because the cells in the system are constantly being replenished. Babies are exposed to countless bacteria and viruses every day, and immunizations are negligible in comparison." - Jaun Jimenez Barbosa, MD

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