

Hexavalent vaccines indicator

Safety of the intervention

Type, including severity, consequences and frequency of short- and long-term adverse events following vaccination

Combination vaccines are used extensively in routine immunization programs (i.e. pentavalent, measles and rubella) and are a very safe and effective way to provide recommended vaccines with fewer injections.

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis combination vaccines (DTP) have been in use since the 1940s. Most recently, this DTP combination has been used as the basis for the development of combination vaccines containing additional vaccine antigens such as hepatitis B and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, resulting in pentavalent vaccine, or with the additional IPV, resulting in hexavalent vaccine.

None of these combination vaccines has produced any adverse events that had not been observed with the individual components and currently used combination vaccines have excellent safety records. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

Sources

1.

Polio vaccines: WHO position paper, June 2022. Weekly Epidemiological Record. 2022; 97(25): 277–296.7.

2.

Frequently asked questions and considerations for the introduction of hexavalent vaccine DTwP-HepB-Hib-IPV in routine immunization programmes. In: World Health Organization [website]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2024 (<https://www.technet-21.org/en/resources/guidance/frequently-asked-questions-and-considerations-for-the-introduction-of-hexavalent-vaccine-dtwp-hepb-hib-ipv-in-routine-immunization-programmes-june-2024>, accessed 24 June 2025).

3.

GACVS report on hexavalent vaccines. In: World Health Organization [website]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2005 (<https://www.who.int/groups/global-advisory-committee-on-vaccine-safety/topics/hexavalent-vaccines>, accessed 11 July 2025).