

**Who is afraid
of the big bad
cough??**



**NOT YOU,
BECAUSE YOU GOT
VACCINATED
AGAINST IT.**

HOW SERIOUS IS BAD COUGH IN BABIES?

Whooping cough (bad cough or pertussis) is a very serious illness, particularly during the first year of age. Indeed whooping cough in infants does not cause bouts of coughing but rather periods of not breathing (apnoea). It can also lead to pneumonia, severe respiratory failure, permanent brain damage and even death. Most infants with whooping cough will need hospital treatment. Whooping cough is a cyclical disease that periodically peaks with a worrying increase in the number of cases. In Italy, deaths from whooping cough are rare. However, in the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of cases which lead to death.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF FROM WHOOPING COUGH?

The best way to prevent whooping cough is to get vaccinated.

HOW DOES WHOOPING COUGH SPREAD?

Whooping cough is extremely contagious. It spreads easily through sneezing or coughing and when sharing the same breathing space, for instance when a newborn is on the mother's chest. Adults and older children with whooping cough have often no typical symptoms, thus the disease can be mistaken for a common cold with cough. This is why it is advisable to check if all the people caring for the baby have been vaccinated.

.....

You can protect your baby from whooping cough before birth by getting vaccinated during the third trimester of pregnancy

.....

WHY SHOULD I GET VACCINATED DURING PREGNANCY?

Whooping cough vaccination is recommended during the third trimester of pregnancy.

After vaccination, the mum's body produces antibodies that are transferred to the baby through the placenta before birth. These antibodies will protect the baby during the first months of life until he/she will get the first two doses of vaccine and will start to produce the antibodies.

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE?

It is diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccine (dTpa) that protects against the three diseases. No monovalent pertussis vaccine is available.

WHAT IS COCOONING?

Cocooning means protecting a baby indirectly. It means **that all the people around the newborn have been vaccinated against whooping cough and have recently received a booster dose.**

Cocooning may not be enough to prevent contagion and the disease, but it reduces the risk of being infected.

I HAVE ALREADY BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH. SHOULD I GET ANOTHER VACCINATION?

Yes, because the antibodies produced by the vaccine reach the highest level after about 2 weeks and then start to decrease. Vaccination is therefore recommended during every pregnancy to ensure the best protection to the baby.



IF ALREADY I HAD WHOOPING COUGH, SHOULD I STILL GET VACCINATED?

Yes, because unlike other childhood diseases the immunity provided by this disease does not offer lifelong protection and fades over time.

IS WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE SAFE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND THEIR BABIES?

Absolutely. The whooping cough vaccine is very safe for the mother and the baby. The most common side effects are mild, like redness, swelling or pain at the injection site. These only last a few days. The vaccine cannot give you whooping cough because it is acellular and does not contain any live bacteria. Gynaecologists and obstetricians recommend whooping cough vaccination during the third trimester of pregnancy.

.....

In the first months of life, babies are at high risk of developing severe whooping cough and they remain vulnerable at least until they get the first two doses of vaccine.

.....

MUM, GET YOUR FLU SHOT TOO!

Remember that, if you are in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the flu season, it is very important to also get vaccinated against this disease. Flu can cause serious complications in pregnant women (pneumonia and difficulty breathing) and can even lead to miscarriage, preterm delivery and fetal congenital anomalies.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

salute.regione.emilia-romagna.it | saperidoc.it



Non da sola

Comprendere e vivere
la propria gravidanza, insieme