

DISPELLING
MYTHS
ON VACCINES AND FEVER

1 POSSIBLE RISKS OF VACCINATION

Do vaccines cause autism?

- **NO**, the question has been raised in particular for the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine³. However, several studies have proven the groundlessness of these claims even in children at high risk for autism⁴.

Does vaccination in the first 24 months of life affect normal neurobehavioural development?

- **NO**, no differences have ever been observed between children who received vaccines on time compared to delayed schedules⁵

2 COMMON PRECONCEPTIONS

Does the administration of multiple vaccines overload the immune system?

- **NO**, even an infant's immune system is already capable of responding to several aggressions at the same time and vaccines given in combination to not weaken it¹

Is it better to get immunised naturally, that is, by getting ill, rather than by vaccination?

- **NO**, any side effects vaccines may have (e.g., fever, redness or pain at the injection site) are much milder than the illnesses that they prevent and pose less risks²

3 POST-VACCINATION FEVER

Is there any prophylaxis to avoid developing fever after vaccination?

- **NO**, routine prophylaxis with antipyretics is not recommended
- Fever may develop after vaccination; it is characterised by:
 - ✓ values between 38 and 38.5°C
 - ✓ short duration (24-48 hours)

4 POST-VACCINATION PAIN

Is there always pain at the injection site after vaccination?

- **NO**, pain is a common side effect and it may develop at the injection site regardless of redness or swelling



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Use of **ibuprofen** or **paracetamol**
is effective in treating
both the fever and any pain
at the injection site⁸

