

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 vaccine. However, several studies have proven the groundlessness of these claims even in children at high risk for autism.¹

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 schedules.²

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 it.³

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 risks.⁴

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 site⁵

