
VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Question: Inactivated influenza vaccine should not be administered at the same visit as PCV13 or DTaP vaccine due to the small increased risk for febrile seizures. True or False?

- a) True
- b) False

Answer: b) False

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) continues to encourage the vaccination of children according to the vaccination schedule, which allows for the flu, pneumococcal and DTaP vaccinations to be given at the same visit.

A CDC study of children aged 6 months to 2 years has shown a small increased risk for febrile seizures during the 24 hours after a child receives the inactivated influenza vaccine at the same time as the pneumococcal 13-valent conjugate (PCV13) vaccine or the DTaP vaccine. The inactivated influenza vaccine was not associated with an increased risk of febrile seizures when it was given on a different day from the other two vaccines. Studies have not shown an increased risk for febrile seizures after the DTaP vaccine, except when it is given at the same time as the flu shot. There may be a small increase in the risk of febrile seizure when PCV13 vaccine is given by itself.

The risk of febrile seizure with any combination of these vaccines is small (at most 30 febrile seizures in 100,000 children vaccinated). The CDC carefully reviewed the data on febrile seizures and considered the benefits of vaccinating children against these illnesses and decided that no changes in the childhood immunization recommendations should be made.

Sources: Febrile Seizures Following Childhood Vaccinations, Including Influenza Vaccination: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/febrile.htm>
Febrile Seizures and Childhood Vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/febrile-seizures.html>

