

Pneumococcal Vaccine Study

Making vaccine choices

Every day, you're making decisions about what's best for you and your loved ones. You're careful about staying away from sick people and about what you put into your body. But you may be less sure about vaccination for diseases such as pneumococcal disease. Read these common myths to learn more.



MYTH 1

Natural immunity is better than vaccine-acquired immunity.

Yes & No.

In some cases, natural immunity—building up resistance to a disease by catching it—may result in a stronger immunity to the disease than a vaccination. But with many diseases, choosing natural immunity is **risky**. Pneumococcal disease, for example, can result in pneumonia within 24 to 48 hours. This is a lot faster than the time your body needs to build an effective natural immune response.



MYTH 2

Infant immune systems can't handle so many vaccines.

Incorrect.

Getting multiple vaccines at the same visit will not overwhelm your baby's immune system. This safe approach makes sure your baby is protected sooner rather than later. Every day, healthy infants' immune systems successfully fight off millions of germs they come across in their surroundings.



MYTH 3

Vaccines cause autism.

Officially debunked!

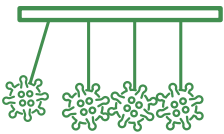
In 1997, a fraudulent and unethical study of 12 patients suggested that vaccines cause autism. Many studies were done after that to investigate further. The studies included hundreds of thousands of children. **None of them** found a link between vaccines and autism. The medical community across the globe is united against the myth that vaccines cause autism.

MYTH 4

A vaccine can cause the disease it's trying to prevent.

Extremely unlikely!

Most vaccines are inactivated (killed) vaccines, which makes it impossible to contract the disease from the vaccine. A few vaccines contain live organisms, and when vaccinated with live vaccines, it may lead to a mild case of the disease. This isn't a bad thing and can actually show that the vaccine is working. An immune response to a vaccine can sometimes include symptoms, such as fever and feeling tired or generally not well. But having no reactions doesn't mean that your body isn't building immunity.



MYTH 5

Vaccines contain unsafe toxins.

False.

Vaccine ingredients have gone through extensive laboratory and animal testing to learn about their safety before they can be given to people. While it's true that extremely small amounts of chemicals such as aluminum may be found in some vaccines, there is **no scientific evidence** that the low levels of these chemicals used in vaccines are harmful. In fact, some added chemicals can help boost the body's immune response to the vaccine!

