

Parental information about tuberculosis vaccine

Tuberculosis is a disease that exists globally. The disease can be severe, especially for younger children with a weak protection against infections. Tuberculosis usually affects the lungs but could also affect other organs such as skeleton or the brain.

Tuberculosis is uncommon in Sweden. The vaccine is therefore only offered to children with an increased risk of exposure to tuberculosis.

How is the vaccination given?

The vaccine (BCG) is injected into the skin of the upper left arm. Immediately after vaccination, a small bump appears on the skin and disappears quickly.

Side effects?

Most children vaccinated with a tuberculosis vaccine receive a mark (scar) on their arm at the site of injection. In rare cases, a larger wound appears which takes longer time to heal.



What happens after vaccination?

After about 2-4 weeks, a small red elevation usually appears at the site of injection. After 6-8 weeks, it may develop into a seeping wound. In most cases it heals within 3-4 months and may develop a mark (scar). A seeping wound can be covered with a dry airy dressing (do not use sticky plaster). Avoid bathing in swimming pools. Avoid squeezing out pus from the wound.

When to contact your nurse at BVC?

In case of an early reaction such as redness, elevation or blister at the vaccine site appearing within a few days after vaccination.

In case the wound is larger than the image below.

In case your child does not use his or her arm.

In case you have any additional questions about the reaction.