**Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and   
Acellular Pertussis (DTaP) Vaccine Adsorbed**

**Precautions and Contraindications**

Screen all patients for precautions and contraindications to immunization.

**Recommended Schedule**

DTaP is indicated for active immunization against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis in infants and children 6 weeks through 6 years of age (prior to seventh birthday).

DTaP should not be administered to any infant before the age of 6 weeks or to individuals aged 7 years or older.

**DTaP Schedule for Children < 7 Years of Age, Unless a Contraindication**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dose** | **Vaccine** | **Recommended** **Age** | **Accelerated Schedule** |
| 1 | DTaP | 2 months | > 6 weeks of age |
| 2 | DTaP | 4 months | > 1 month after 1st dose |
| 3 | DTaP | 6 months | > 1 month after 2nd dose |
| 4 | DTaP | 15 through 18 months | > 6 months after 3rd dose |
| 5 | DTaP | 4 through 6 years | > 6 months after 4th dose |
| Additional  Boosters | Tdap/Td | 11 through 12 years of age, if  > 5 years since 5th dose, then every 10 years | 1st booster > 5 years after the 5th dose, then every 10 years |

**Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids Adsorbed (For Pediatric Use), DT,** is indicated only for children less than 7 years of age and for whom pertussis vaccine is specifically contraindicated. (See DT protocol)

**Dosage and Route**

Give DTaP vaccine 0.5 mL intramuscularly (IM) according to the recommended schedule.   
*Do NOT administer this product intravenously or subcutaneously.*

See protocols for Tdap and Td vaccines

Always check the package insert prior to administration of any vaccine.

**Anatomical Site**

Administer IM vaccines at a 90o angle with a 22- to 25-gauge needle.

* For infants < 12 months of age, administer into the anterolateral aspect of the thigh with a 7/8- to 1-inch needle. (For newborn and or low birth weight infants only, a 5/8” needle may be considered.)
* For children > 12 months of age, administer into the anterolateral aspect of the thigh or deltoid muscle, using a 7/8- to 1¼-inch needle.
* As with other intramuscular injections, use with caution in patients on anticoagulant therapy.

**Precautions**

* Moderate to severe illness, with or without fever (temporary precaution)
* Temperature of 105o F (40.5o C) or higher within 48 hours after previous dose of DTaP or, DTP unexplained by any other cause
* Seizures or convulsions, with or without fever, within 72 hours after previous dose of DTaP or DTP
* Collapse or shock-like state (e.g., hypotonic hyporesponsive episode) within 48 hours after previous dose of DTaP or DTP
* Persistent, inconsolable crying lasting 3 hours or longer within 48 hours of previous dose of DTaP or DTP
* Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks after a dose of DTaP or DTP
* Underlying unstable neurologic disorders (including seizure disorders cerebral palsy, and developmental delay)

**Contraindications**

Individuals with:

* Anaphylactic reaction to previous dose of DTaP, latex, or any other component of the vaccine (see package insert for specific components)should not receive DTaP.
* Encephalopathy (e.g., coma, decreased level of consciousness, prolonged seizures) not due to another identifiable cause within 7 days of previous dose of DTP or DTaP
* Progressive neurologic disorder, including infantile spasms, uncontrolled epilepsy, progressive encephalopathy -- defer DTaP until neurologic status clarified and stabilized

**Adverse Events**

* See the product’s package insert
* See Adverse Events Following Vaccinations page of this section

**Storage and Handling**

* Store in refrigerator at 36oF – 46oF (2oC – 8oC)
* DO NOT FREEZE; discard if product has been frozen.

**Other Important Notes**

* Administer DTaP vaccine simultaneously with all other vaccines indicated according to the recommended schedule and the patient’s current vaccine status.
* DTaP and DT should **not** be given to individuals aged 7 years and older.
* The fourth dose of DTaP may be administered as early as 12 months of age, provided 6 months have elapsed since the third dose and the child is unlikely to return at age 15 through 18 months.
* The fifth dose of DTaP is not necessary if the fourth dose was given on or after the 4th birthday.

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