Pepin and the DTaP Vaccine
(Diphteria, Tetanus, and Pertussis)
Pepin we are going to visit your doctor today.

I know you are very happy to go out with me.

You are going to receive the DTaP vaccine.

DAA!
Pepin! The vaccine is very good for you.

This new vaccine protects infants like you from Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis.

In the past, there were concerns about the safety of Pertussis vaccine...

...because it was made from mashed up whole bacteria.
Now the vaccine is only made from toxoid...

...which is a modified toxin not disease causing, and other components.

This new vaccine brings up an immune response against the disease by producing minimal side effects.

It prevents children from contracting terrible infections and diseases.

PERTUSSIS

Pertussis is a disease also known as whooping cough.
When an infant is infected with Pertussis, he or she coughs uncontrollably in fits or spasms...

...which make it difficult to eat, drink, or even breathe.

These coughing spells can last for weeks.

An infected child especially a small infant might die.
Pertussis can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage and death.

Pneumonia

Seizures

Brain Damage

WWAAAA!
Before the vaccine was available, Pertussis caused 200,000 illnesses and 8,000 deaths every year in the U.S.

Now most children who get all their shots will be protected against this disease.

Do not cry Pepin that is why you are receiving the vaccines.

Where is your dad Pepin?

We are going to be late.

I forgot to tell you that the vaccine also protects you against Diphtheria.
Diphtheria is an infection caused by bacteria that infects specially the throat...

...although it can also infect any other part of the airway such as the nose or the larynx.

It develops a thick membrane that can occasionally cause severe difficulty breathing...

...but it’s most important damage is caused to the heart, and to many important nerves in the body and other organs.
The release of poison (toxin) can result in the patient developing paralysis, heart failure, and frequently, even death.

Pepin am I forgetting something? I think your dad is coming...
We need to hurry Pepe.

Did you know that before the DTaP vaccine was available diphtheria caused up to...

...176,000 infections a year and a mortality of 20,000 in the US.

I feel that I forgot something.
The vaccine will protect Pepin against Tetanus...

...which is a disease caused by a bacteria that enters the organism through an open wound.

And usually does not cause any local damage but this bacteria releases a poison called tetanus toxin that causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over the body.

Have you heard of this disease?

The jaw will lock and the baby will not be able to open his/her mouth.
Tetanus can lead to death; the tightening of the respiratory muscles will lead to asphyxia, as the patient will be unable to breathe.

Before the vaccine was available, over 1,300 cases of tetanus were reported and most of them were fatal.

Do not worry, Pepin will be protected.
The DTaP vaccine is a combined vaccine that protects infants against 3 diseases:

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis.

Most children should get a dose at:

- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6 months
- 12 to 18 months
- 4 to 6 years of age.
This vaccine carries a VERY small risk of serious harm, such as a severe allergic reaction.

Pertussis is the component most frequently associated with adverse side effects and usually diphtheria or tetanus have minimal side effects.

If there are reactions, they are mild, usually will occur within three days and do not last long.
Most people do not have any adverse reactions to this vaccine.

Possible common reactions to these vaccines are:

- Fever, fussiness.
- Sore arm or leg.
- Tiredness, vomiting or...
- Decreased appetite.
If the infant presents fever and pain after the vaccine, an aspirin free pain reliever can be administered for 24 hours after the shot.

Less common reactions, only associated with the pertussis component, include:

- Persistent inconsolable crying for 3 hours or more.
- Fever of 105 or higher.
- Seizure or a child becoming limp, pale, and less alert.
Two possible but very rare reactions include:

Severe allergic reaction including breathing difficulty or shock...

...and severe brain reaction including prolonged seizure, coma or lowered consciousness.

Most experts believe there is no long-term mental damage associated with the pertussis vaccine.

Some children should not get the pertussis component of the vaccine or should wait.
You need to tell your nurse or doctor if your child...

...ever had a moderate or serious reaction after being vaccinated.

Ever had a seizure.

Has a parent, brother or sister who had a seizure or...

...has a brain problem that is getting worse or...

...if the infant has a moderate or severe illness.
Well, Pepin and his mother are ready to see the doctor.

But what happened Pepin, why are you so worried? oh...

...we forgot to say that if there is a moderate to severe reaction...

...call a doctor, tell the doctor what happened, including the date and time it happened and when the vaccination was given.

Ask your doctor, nurse, or health department to file a
Vaccine Adverse Event Report Form
or call toll free,
1-800-822-7967
www.vaers.org
Lastly, there is a federal program known as the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program...

...which helps pay for the care of those seriously injured by vaccines.

For details call 1-800-338-2382 or visit the program's website www.hrsa.gov/osp/vicp

Pepe, next time we need to bring more toys for Pepin.
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