



WHAT IS ADACEL?

Adacel® is a vaccine for adults, adolescents and children between the ages of 4 and 64. It helps protect against 3 diseases:

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis (whooping cough)

All 3 of these diseases can be serious. However, pertussis is a particular concern, because it is currently one of the most prevalent vaccine-preventable diseases in Canada.

Adacel® (Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids Adsorbed Combined with Component Pertussis Vaccine) is indicated for active booster immunization for the prevention of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis as a single dose in children and adults 4 to 64 years of age.

As with any vaccination, the vaccine should not be given to anyone who is allergic to any of the components in Adacel® or who has experienced an allergic reaction to a previous dose of Td Adsorbed or another component of the pertussis combination vaccine.

The most common adverse events among children, adolescents and adults, were: injection site pain, swelling, redness; tiredness, headache, body ache or muscle weakness.

Ask your doctor for more information about Adacel® or visit www.sanofipasteur.ca.

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The vaccines division of sanofi-aventis Group

sanofi pasteur 1755 Steeles Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M2R 3T4 © 2007 Sanofi Pasteur Limited

BST010E01 10/07



**You do everything
to protect your little one.
But what about yourself?**

Adults and adolescents *can* get whooping cough. Help prevent it with the Adacel® vaccine.





WHAT IS PERTUSSIS?

Also known as whooping cough, pertussis is a respiratory tract infection that spreads easily through coughing and sneezing.

Pertussis may start out with symptoms similar to bronchitis or the common cold: runny nose, sneezing and low-grade fever. The infection turns into a series of severe coughing spells that can continue over a period of 6 to 12 weeks.

In older children and adults, the disease is less severe. However, infants tend to have complications from pertussis. Some of them include: vomiting after a coughing spell, weight loss, breathing problems, choking spells, pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage and, in rare cases, death.

Vaccines have helped prevent pertussis in the age groups that have received them. The biggest increases in reported pertussis cases have been in infants too young to begin their routine immunizations, and in adolescents and adults.

WHY DO ADULTS NEED PERTUSSIS PROTECTION?

Pertussis is more common than you may think.

The proportion of pertussis cases in adolescents (≥15 years) and adults has increased from 9.6% in 1995 to 31.3% in 2004.

Between 1990 and 2004, the annual number of reported cases has ranged from 2,165 to 10,151. However, some believe these reports are underestimated.

Pertussis has been found in 10% to 20% of adolescents and adults with a cough illness lasting 7 days or more without improvement. Even people who had routine immunization in childhood can become vulnerable to pertussis infection. This is because the effectiveness of a vaccination can fade over time.

Adults are a major source of transmission to infants.

Altogether, household contacts are responsible for **76% to 83%** of pertussis transmission to susceptible infants.

- Parents account for 55.1% of pertussis transmission;
- Siblings: 16.3%;
- Aunts, uncles, friends and cousins: 10.2%;
- Grandparents: 6.1%;
- Part-time caretakers: 2%.

In the first few months of life, infants are particularly vulnerable to pertussis infection. This is because they don't develop adequate levels of immunity until they receive their third pertussis immunization at 6 months of age.

Pertussis infection in infants is dangerous because the most serious complications and deaths happen in members of this age group.

WHO SHOULD BE VACCINATED WITH ADACEL®?



Adacel® is for adults, adolescents and children between the ages of 4 and 64.

Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends pertussis immunization for **adolescents and adults** who have not previously had a dose of acellular vaccine because:

1. It helps protect them against pertussis;
2. It may also help to indirectly protect susceptible infants.



The Canadian Paediatric Society endorses the NACI recommendation and recommends that all provinces implement programs to give an adolescent booster of acellular pertussis vaccine.

As with any vaccine, Adacel® may not protect 100% of vaccinated individuals. Adacel® is not indicated to prevent the transmission of pertussis to infants.

