

*Vaccination against pertussis during pregnancy...*

- Protect the baby within its first few months of life, thanks to the maternal antibodies against pertussis passed through the placenta.

Vaccination against pertussis during pregnancy

Protect your baby



## What is pertussis?

It is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium that provokes respiratory problems. During the first weeks of life, when the baby has not yet started vaccination against pertussis, the disease is most frequent, usually more severe and requires hospitalization. In some cases, it may even cause death.

## How does it spread?

Pertussis is spread through respiratory secretions, when infected people cough or sneeze. The main source of infection for the newly born is its family (mother, father, siblings, grandparents) or caregivers living in the baby's surroundings.

## How can it be prevented?

The best way to prevent the new born from being infected is to vaccinate the mother while she is pregnant. This is how the baby acquires its defenses (immunity) and will be protected until the vaccination scheme against pertussis is started, when the newborn baby is two months old.

Timely vaccination is essential. It must not be delayed. The dosage should be given on the very day when the baby turns 2, 4 and 6 months of age.

## At what time of pregnancy is vaccination recommended?

For vaccination of the pregnant mother to ensure protection of the newborn, it must be given between 28 and 36 weeks of pregnancy (preferably between weeks 28 and 32), with a vaccine against pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus.

Vaccination must be repeated with each new pregnancy.

## Is the vaccine safe?

Yes, the vaccine is safe and effective during pregnancy. Besides, due to its composition, it cannot produce the disease. However, like any other medicine, it may cause side effects. The most frequent are a slight ache and redness at the injection site.

## In which situations is the vaccine contraindicated?

The vaccine is contraindicated for people who are allergic to any of its components, although this is very rare. Please talk with the health professional following-up your pregnancy.

