



Mum,
Don't take the
risk!

Protect your
baby from
whooping cough
right now

 Regione Emilia-Romagna



SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE
EMILIA-ROMAGNA

How serious is whooping cough in babies?

Whooping cough (pertussis) is a very serious illness, particularly during the first year of age. Indeed whooping cough in infants does not cause bouts of coughing but rather periods of not breathing (apnoea). It can also lead to pneumonia, severe respiratory failure, permanent brain damage and even death. Most infants with whooping cough will need hospital treatment. In Italy, deaths from whooping cough are rare. However, in the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of cases which lead to death.

How can you protect yourself from whooping cough?


The best way to prevent whooping cough is to get vaccinated.

How does whooping cough spread?

Whooping cough is extremely contagious. It spreads easily by sneezing or coughing and when sharing the same breathing space, for instance when a newborn is on the mother's chest. Adults and older children with whooping cough have often no typical symptoms which can be mistaken for a common cold with cough. This is why it is advisable to check if all the people caring for the baby have been vaccinated.

Why should I get vaccinated during pregnancy?

Whooping cough vaccination is recommended during the third trimester of pregnancy. After vaccination, the mum's body produces antibodies that are transferred to the baby through the placenta before birth. These antibodies will protect the baby during the first months until he/she will get the first two doses of vaccine and will start to produce the antibodies.



You can protect your baby from whooping cough before birth by getting vaccinated during the third trimester of pregnancy

What is the name of the whooping cough vaccine?

It is diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccine (dTpa) that protects against the three diseases. No monovalent pertussis vaccine is available.



older siblings



people caring for the baby



What is Cocooning?

Cocooning means protecting a baby indirectly. It means that all the people around the newborn have been vaccinated against whooping cough and have recently received a booster dose. Cocooning may not be enough to prevent contagion and the disease, but it reduces the risk of it.

I have already been vaccinated against whooping cough. Should I get another vaccination?

Yes, because the antibodies produced by the vaccine reach the highest level after about 2 weeks and then start to decrease. Vaccination is therefore recommended during every pregnancy to ensure the best protection to the baby.

If I had whooping cough, should I still get vaccinated?

Yes, because unlike other childhood diseases the immunity provided by this disease **does not offer lifelong protection** and fades over time.

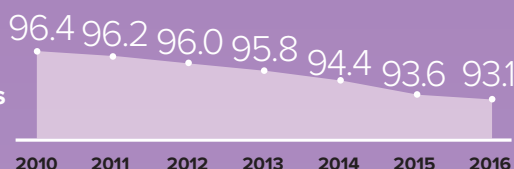
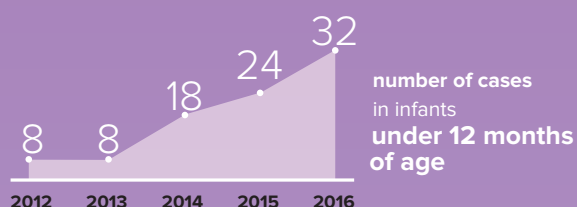
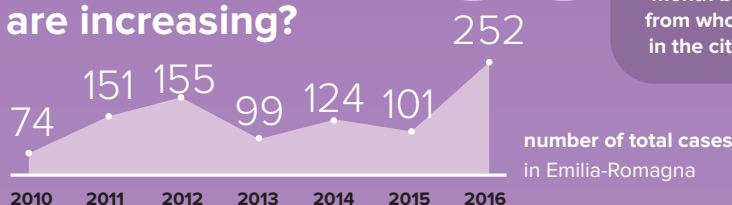
Is whooping cough vaccine safe for pregnant women and their babies?

Absolutely. The whooping cough vaccine is very safe for the mother and the baby. The most common side effects are mild, like redness, swelling or pain at the injection site. These only last a few days. The vaccine cannot give you whooping cough because it is acellular and does not contain any live bacteria. Gynaecologists and obstetricians recommend whooping cough vaccination during the third trimester of pregnancy.

Is it true that the cases of whooping cough in children are increasing?

Yes

In 2015, a one month baby girl died from whooping cough in the city of Bologna



Vaccination coverage at 31 December 2017 Emilia-Romagna region Whooping cough vaccination at the 24th month of age

In the first months of life, babies are at high risk of developing severe whooping cough and they remain vulnerable at least until they get the first two doses of vaccine.

Protect your baby before birth.

Get your whooping cough shot during pregnancy.

Mum, get your flu shot too!

Remember that if you are in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during flu season, you should get your flu shot!

Flu can cause serious complications in pregnant women (pneumonia and difficulty breathing) and can even lead to miscarriage, preterm delivery and fetal congenital anomalies.

TALK TO YOUR GYNAECOLOGIST
AND VISIT THE WEBSITES:

SALUTE.REGIONE.EMILIA-ROMAGNA.IT
WWW.SAPERIDOC.IT