

INFORMATION ABOUT INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE

THE DISEASE

Influenza (flu) is a highly contagious infection of the respiratory tract. It can be caused by three different types of myxovirus. Flu occurs either sporadically or in epidemics and tends to occur more frequently during colder months. Flu can affect any age group, but is more prevalent among school age children and people over 40.

THE VACCINATION

The Influenza Virus Vaccine is produced by injecting specific types of the influenza virus into chick embryos. The nasal mist of these antigens stimulates the body to produce antibodies. The Influenza Virus is capable of changing strains over a period of time and it should be mentioned that protection from the "flu" is afforded only against those strains of virus from which the vaccine has been prepared. In attempts to provide protection from the most prevalent influenza virus, the components of the vaccine may change from year to year.

Immunity following vaccination lasts for up to one year. Therefore, yearly vaccinations are recommended.

CONTRAINDICATIONS TO THE VACCINE

You should not take the influenza Vaccine if:

- 1. You are allergic to chicken eggs or feathers
- 2. You are allergic to Gentamicin or other amino glycosides
- 3. You have had Guillian-Barree Syndrome (GBS)

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects in the adult occur at a low frequency. BECAUSE THE INFLUENZA VACCINE CONTAINS ONLY NON-INFECTIOUS VIRUSES, IT CANNOT CAUSE INFLUENZA. The most frequent side effects occur in less than one third of vaccines, in the injection site, lasting up to 2 days. The following 3 types of systematic reactions have occurred: 1) Fever Malaise Myalgia beginning 6-12 hours after vaccination and lasting for 1-2 days; 2) Immediate allergic reaction, which could include hives, angioedema, allergic asthma or systematic anaphylaxis, occur extremely rarely. 3) Guillian-Barree Syndrome (GBS) is an uncommon illness characterized by ascending paralysis which is usually self limited and reversible.

CONSENT FOR INFLUENZA VACCINE

I have read the above information about Influenza Vaccine. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the benefits and risks of the Influenza Vaccine.

I understand the vaccine can only afford immunity against the specific influenza viruses from which the vaccine has been derived. As with any medical treatment, there is no guarantee that I will not experience an adverse side effect from the vaccine.

