



Poliomyelitis:

Polio is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly attacks the nervous system. It usually enters the human body (child or adult) through the mouth and multiplies in the intestine. The virus causes paralysis and may lead to death when the breathing muscles become immobilized. It may also kill many of those infected before developing the vaccine.

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Causes:

The virus usually enters the human body (child or adult) through the mouth and multiplies in the intestine.

Paralysis is transmitted from the infected person to the healthy person through direct contact.

Symptoms:

- Most of the persons infected with polio will have no symptoms.
- Some persons have flu-like symptoms, such as fever, fatigue, nausea, as well as headache, stiffness in the neck and back, and pain in the limbs.
- Very few of polio cases result in permanent paralysis of the limbs.
- Few people die when the paralysis strikes the respiratory muscles.

When you should see the doctor:

Consult your doctor for polio vaccination recommendations before traveling to areas where polio cases still occur naturally, or where oral polio vaccine is used.

Your child has not completed the series of vaccinations

Your child had an allergic reaction to the polio vaccine

Your child has problems other than redness or mild pain where the vaccine was given

If you had polio years ago and now you feel weak and tired for no apparent reason



Prevention:

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent polio.

Treatment:

There is no treatment for polio, it can only be prevented. The physical therapy along with the anti-spasm medicines can help relax muscles. Polio vaccine, given multiple times, can protect a child for life.

