

Indian Academy of Pediatrics Recommends Immediate Use of Typhoid Vaccines



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In recognition of the huge typhoid fever burden in India, the Indian Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Immunization (IAPCOI) has recommended the immediate use of the Vi polysaccharide vaccine to prevent typhoid.

In their recommendation, the IAPCOI notes that "Improvements in hygiene and sanitation are still a distant dream. The Vi polysaccharide vaccine has been demonstrated to have reasonable efficacy in the Indian setting and is available. The IAPCOI therefore recommends the immediate inclusion of the Vi polysaccharide vaccines in the national immunization schedule."

The IAPCOI recommendation is consistent with a WHO SEARO prioritization workshop that also classified typhoid vaccination as an 'immediate' priority.

IAPCOI explicitly recommended "administration of a single dose of the polysaccharide vaccine in the age group of 2-15 years," and noted this was a highly cost-effective strategy (US\$160 per DALY averted).

In response to the emergence of multidrug resistant typhoid in city hospitals, the Delhi municipal government has been vaccinating 2-5 year olds since 2004. An estimated 300,000

children are vaccinated annually with Vi polysaccharide vaccine, primarily from low-income households.

Typhoid is included in the national communicable disease surveillance system, which includes testing for multidrug resistance.

According to WHO, the Indian National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) has discussed the implementation of typhoid vaccination and intends to deliberate further at their next meeting. The Indian NTAGI will also consider recommending

sentinel typhoid surveillance in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

[Read the complete Indian Academy of Pediatrics 2011 recommendation](#)

[Read the recently updated Government of India National Vaccine Policy \(April 2011\)](#)

