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Tdap Vaccine **(Tetanus-Lockjaw, Diphtheria and Pertussis-Whooping Cough)**

On your next visit you will be getting the Tdap Vaccine. Please make sure you have not received this vaccine in the past. If you have received this vaccine in the past, please provide Women's Health Service with the date of the vaccine.

Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis can be very serious diseases.

Tetanus (Lockjaw)-causes painful muscle spasms and stiffness, usually all over the body. It can lead to tightening of muscles in the head and neck so the victim cannot open her mouth or swallow or sometimes even breathe. Tetanus kills about 1 out of 5 people who are infected.

Diphtheria-can cause a thick membrane to cover the back of the throat. It can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and even death.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)-Causes severe coughing spells which can lead to difficulty breathing, vomiting and disturbed sleep. It can lead to weight loss, incontinence, rib fractures and passing out from violent coughing. Up to 2 in 100 adolescents and 5 in 100 adults with pertussis are hospitalized or have complications, including pneumonia and death.

These three diseases are all caused by bacteria. Diphtheria and pertussis are spread from person to person. Tetanus enters the body through cuts, scratches or wounds.

The United States saw as many as 200,000 cases a year of diphtheria and pertussis before the vaccines were available and hundreds of cases of tetanus. Since then, tetanus and diphtheria cases have dropped by about 99% and pertussis cases by about 92%.

Children 6 years of age and younger get DTaP vaccine to protect them from these three diseases. Older Children, adolescents and adults need protection too.

Pregnant Women

Pregnant women who have never had a dose of Tdap should get one, after the 20th week of gestation and preferably during the 3rd trimester. If they do not get Tdap during their pregnancy they should get a dose as soon as possible after delivery. Pregnant women who have previously received Tdap will need to receive another Tdap vaccine during their 3rd trimester to boost their antibody production that will help protect their newborn from the pertussis virus.

Tdap or Td may be given at the same time as other vaccines.