

TAG  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR HEAMOPHILUS  
INFLUENZAE TYPE B  
(HIB)

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## 1999 Recommendations

- Hib vaccine should be included in the routine immunization programs of every country in the Region once sustainability has been assured.
- Countries introducing Hib vaccine should monitor and report vaccine coverage.
- Purchase of Hib vaccine or combined vaccines containing Hib antigen through the PAHO Revolving Fund can result in significant cost savings.
- Countries should have surveillance systems to monitor Hib-related illnesses and to measure the impact of vaccine introduction. All countries in the Region should implement hospital-based sentinel surveillance for meningitis and pneumonia due to *H. influenzae* type b and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Surveillance should be integrated with and strengthen already existing systems. A network consisting of sentinel hospitals, public health laboratories, and national epidemiology units should be organized in each country.
- PAHO should provide technical support to assure the implementation and coordination of this surveillance system.

### Combination vaccines

The availability and use of combination vaccines with DTP vaccine will simplify the administration of vaccine antigens against major childhood diseases. Furthermore, it will result in infants and children receiving fewer injections, fewer visits to health centers and an increase in compliance and coverage.

- Countries that include DTP, Hib and/or Hepatitis B vaccines in their routine immunization programs should consider introducing vaccines that contain either the four or five antigens in combination.

## 2000 Recommendations

1. Countries not yet using Hib vaccine should make an effort to introduce it into their routine immunization program.
2. Countries already using Hib vaccine should monitor and report vaccine coverage and Hib cases to measure the impact of the vaccine.
3. TAG recommends that sustainable financing mechanisms be in place to maintain Hib vaccination. Purchase of this vaccine either as a single antigen or in combination with DPT or DPT/HepB (thus reducing the number of needed visits and increasing compliance) through the PAHO Revolving Fund can result in significant cost savings.
4. The availability and use of DTP combination vaccines will simplify the administration of vaccine antigens against major childhood diseases.

## 2004 Recommendations

- Countries that are not yet using the Hib vaccine should make every effort to introduce it into their routine immunization programs.
- Countries that are already using the Hib vaccine should monitor and report vaccination coverage and Hib cases in order to evaluate the impact of the intervention.
- The TAG recommends establishing sustainable financial mechanisms to maintain vaccination against Hib. Purchasing this vaccine in combination with DTP or DTP/HepB through the PAHO Revolving Fund can result in significant cost-savings and thus improving sustainability.