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Information Leaflet



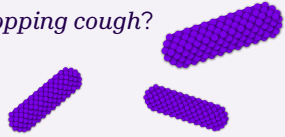
Consult your doctor for more information.

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# Whopping Cough: Protect your baby from day one

## Vaccine protection during the pregnancy

### What is *whooping cough*?



Whooping cough (or pertussis) is a highly contagious disease that causes severe coughing attacks, making it difficult to breathe. It is particularly serious in the first few months of life, as infants at this age are still too young to be vaccinated and are therefore largely unprotected.

### How does *whooping cough* spread?



Whooping cough is transmitted by coughing, sneezing or close contact. Many cases of whooping cough in infants under 6 months can be traced back to close family members.

## A disease with serious consequences



A child with whooping cough may suffer from an acute lack of air, turn blue or vomit after a prolonged coughing attack. In the most severe cases, whooping cough can lead to pneumonia, permanent brain damage and even death.

Roughly half of all infants who contract whooping cough have to be hospitalized due to complications caused by the disease.

## A global problem



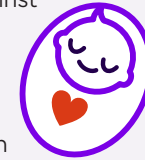
Despite the availability of vaccinations, there are still outbreaks of whooping cough, since for example, in Germany, ~50% of adults are not or only insufficiently vaccinated against whooping cough. The number of reported cases is also rising worldwide. Outside of Germany, countries have reported an increasing number of cases and deaths of infants in recent years. These countries, such as the USA, the United Kingdom or Spain, recommend whooping cough vaccination during pregnancy. This recommendation was also made in Germany by the Ständige Impfkommission (Standing Committee on Vaccination, STIKO).

## How can I protect my *baby* against *whooping cough*?

You can help protect your baby against whooping cough in the first few weeks after birth.

Experts from the STIKO recommends that you get vaccinated against whooping cough during each pregnancy, ideally in the 3rd trimester, or in the 2nd trimester if there is an increased risk of premature birth.

By being vaccinated, you can pass on antibodies to your unborn child. These antibodies can protect your child in the first few weeks of their life, when most susceptible – until your baby can be vaccinated. You should also get vaccinated if you have already been vaccinated or have had whooping cough yourself.



It is important that not only the father and any siblings, but all close family members and caregivers who are in contact with your baby are also protected against whooping cough. A quick vaccination check with your family doctor to refresh your vaccinations if necessary helps to keep your vaccination status up to date.

