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Development of Newborn and Infant Vaccines

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Abstract

Vaccines for early-life immunization are a crucial biomedical intervention to reduce global morbidity and mortality, yet their developmental path has been largely ad hoc, empiric, and inconsistent. Immune responses of human newborns and infants are distinct and cannot be predicted from those of human adults or animal models. Therefore, understanding and modeling age-specific human immune responses will be vital to the rational design and development of safe and effective vaccines for newborns and infants.

THE BURDEN OF INFECTION EARLY IN LIFE

More than 2 million newborns and infants under the age of 6 months die each year worldwide from infection (1–3). In this context, vaccines are second only to clean drinking water as a cost-effective measure to reduce infant morbidity and mortality. Global eradication of smallpox and the hopefully forthcoming eradication of poliomyelitis demonstrate the power and potential of immunization programs. Per World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, children should be immunized with Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) to prevent disseminated tuberculosis in endemic areas, as well as Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP); oral or inactivated Polio vaccine (OPV or IPV, respectively); hepatitis B vaccine (HBV); measles vaccine; and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine (4). However, substantial morbidity and mortality among neonates and infants continues to be caused by infections, including those that are currently vaccine-preventable. Common pathogens of infants include *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae*, *Escherichia coli* and other enteric Gram-negative bacteria, *Bordetella pertussis* (whooping cough), as well as Herpes Simplex Virus, Respiratory Syncytial Virus, and rotavirus (5). This burden of infection highlights early-life susceptibility, particularly among those 0 to 6 months of age, and an unmet global need for improved immunization.

Developing new vaccines against pathogens, such as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), malaria, HIV, and Dengue virus, as well as enhancing availability and delivery of existing, available vaccines could help mitigate the global burden of infection. However, any such approaches will need to focus on early-life immunization in order to benefit the very young, including newborns, defined as those who are < 28 days of age. Immunization of pregnant

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Insights into immune ontogeny will inform translation of new vaccines that are safe and effective for newborns and infants.

mothers, with the consequent, passive transplacental transmission of antibodies to the fetus, could protect neonates (6). However, this promising strategy might be limited by safety and medico-legal concerns. Because birth is the most reliable point of health care contact worldwide, vaccines that are active at birth are of special and strategic importance (7). Vaccines given at birth achieve high population penetration and could substantially reduce the window of susceptibility inherent to the current vaccine schedules that largely focus on a 2/4/6 months of age schedule (Table 1) (8).

VACCINES CURRENTLY LICENSED FOR USE AT BIRTH

On a global basis, three vaccines are currently licensed for immunization at birth: HBV, BCG, and OPV. Of these, only the HBV vaccine is given in the United States, with a first dose at birth (Table 1). As with many medications, these were first developed for and tested in older individuals and then eventually evaluated in newborns. Clinical trials that investigated an accelerated vaccination schedule of these vaccines, including neonatal “birth” doses, demonstrated safety as well as efficacy, often as reflected by the production of antigen-specific antibodies, a surrogate marker of protection (Table 2).

Hepatitis B vaccine

The rates of tuberculosis in the United States are sufficiently low so that BCG is not indicated for neonates and polio immunization is provided as IPV beginning at 2 months of age; therefore, HBV is the only vaccine administered during the first 28 days of life that is currently recommended in the United States (Table 1) (8). HBV vaccine, available since 1982, uses recombinant DNA technology to express hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)—a protein that forms viral-like nanoparticles—in yeast. Alum, a chemical compound containing aluminum salts whose mechanism of action is still under investigation (9), is added as adjuvant. A three-dose series of HBV starting at birth is safe and effective (10).

Bacille Calmette-Guérin

Having been administered to more than 3 billion people, BCG is the most commonly used vaccine worldwide (11). BCG is a single-dose vaccine of freeze-dried, live *Mycobacterium bovis*. The BCG vaccine does not contain any exogenous adjuvant but is intrinsically “self-adjuvanted” because Mycobacteria activate immune responses via transmembrane Toll-like receptors (TLRs), including TLR-2, -4, and -8 (12). Although newborns typically demonstrate impaired T helper 1 (Th1) immunity to multiple stimuli, remarkably BCG can induce Th1-polarizing immune responses at birth (13). BCG has a good safety profile and has been estimated to prevent approximately 30,000 cases of tuberculous meningitis and ~11,500 cases of miliary disease during the first 5 years of life (14). Of note, BCG administration to newborns appears to have a beneficial effect on survival not solely ascribable to protection against tuberculosis, raising the possibility that this live-attenuated vaccine may have beneficial immune-enhancing effects (15).

Oral polio vaccine

In the United States, polio immunization begins with a dose of IPV at 2 months of age. In contrast, in countries where poliomyelitis has not yet been controlled the Sabin OPV—

comprising live-attenuated poliovirus Sabin strains 1, 2, and 3—is administered at birth as a single dose to prevent poliomyelitis and promote herd immunity (16). Although T cell IFN- γ and proliferative recall responses to OPV are limited after immunization at birth, OPV does induce protective antibodies in neonates (17). Of note, there is no extrinsic adjuvant added with OPV, although it contains single-stranded RNA—a class of molecules that can activate human cells via TLR8 (18).

VACCINES TESTED AT BIRTH OR INFANCY

Investigators have recognized that immunization at birth represents a practical approach to reducing the global burden of infection, and accordingly, several studies have evaluated vaccines in newborns [reviewed in (19)]. A few important examples are highlighted here and in Table 2.

Pertussis

B. pertussis is the etiologic agent of whooping cough that still claims the lives of hundreds of thousands of infants worldwide and has been responsible for a recent outbreak in California, resulting in the deaths of many infants, most of whom were less than 2 months of age at disease onset (20). The particular severity of this infection in young infants has motivated studies of neonatal immunization against this pathogen (Table 2). Studies of neonatal pertussis immunization dating back to the 1940s indicate safety of immunization against pertussis at birth, but with variable efficacy (21). Using a whole-cell vaccine, immunization within 24 hours of life resulted in inadequate serum titers (22). A series starting at 1 week, continuing at 5 and 9 weeks, and followed by a booster at 6 to 12 months resulted in protective pertussis agglutinin levels in only ~60% of infants (20). Immunization starting at 3 weeks of life was apparently effective (23), possibly reflecting age-dependent maturation of antigen-presenting cell and lymphocyte function.

Whole-cell pertussis preparations have been associated with reactogenicity, including erythema and local infiltration as well as fever and irritability (24), which prompted the development of acellular pertussis (aP) vaccines containing toxoid, filamentous hemagglutinin (fHA), pertactin, and fimbriae-2 and -3. However, when given in conjunction with DTaP starting at 2 to 14 days of age aP vaccination resulted in a lower antibody response to diphtheria and to multiple pertussis antigens as compared with infants receiving the vaccine at 2/4/6/17 months only (26). These observations suggest vaccine interference, in which simultaneous administration of multiple vaccine antigens may interfere with one another's efficacy. Such antagonistic interactions could reflect, for example, inhibition of antigen presentation and/or B lymphocyte priming—steps that are key for Ab formation. Nevertheless, aP vaccines have proven safe in newborns and have resulted in enhanced immune responses when given initially as the aP vaccine alone followed by DTaP at 3/5/11 or 2/4/6 months (25), an approach that has been associated with Th2 polarization of infant cellular immune memory (27).

Pneumococcus

A trial based in Papua New Guinea evaluated neonatal immunization with a seven-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine comprising pneumococcal polysaccharides coupled to the CRM197 carrier protein [a nontoxic variant of diphtheria toxin isolated from cultures of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* strain C7 (β 197)] adjuvanted with Alum, named PCV7 (28). At birth, PCV7 was immunogenic, but associated with somewhat lower antibody titers to multiple serogroups at 4 months of age (29). Infants that had received a dose of PCV7 at birth subsequently had greater Th2 polarization of TLR-mediated cytokine responses in vitro, suggesting a possible effect on subsequent immune system polarization (28).

Rotavirus

Rotavirus causes hundreds of thousands of infant deaths worldwide. An immunization schedule initiated in the neonatal period (2 to 7 days of age) as a 0/2/4 or 0/2/6 months schedule with live oral rhesus-human reassortant rotavirus tetravalent vaccine was associated with an immunoglobulin A (IgA) sero-response that was lower than the 2/4/6 months group but still deemed acceptable (30). Immunization schedules initiated in newborns were associated with a substantially lower frequency of febrile reactions (0% versus 18%) and a possible reduction in the small risk of intussusception, which eventually led to the withdrawal of this vaccine and subsequent replacement with different attenuated or human-bovine reassortant rotavirus vaccines (31).

Fractional intradermal IPV

A recent Cuban study evaluated a reduced dose of IPV administered at birth with a needle-free intradermal device (32). This approach carries great potential for enhanced safety and efficacy (33). The result was inadequate, as evidenced by suboptimal median polio antibody titers, especially in the fractional-dose arm. However, intradermal vaccination is in early phases of development and is a potentially important strategy to target immune responses to draining lymph nodes.

HIV

Vaccine formulations containing recombinant gp120 derived from HIV-1 adjuvanted with either Alum or with MF59—an oil-in-water emulsion comprising 0.5% polysorbate 80, 0.5% sorbitan trioleate, and 0.5% squalene—were studied in newborns of HIV-infected women (34). Infants were immunized at 0, 1, 3, and 5 months. The vaccines appeared to be safe and well-tolerated (35). Two immunizations with recombinant gp120 proved immunogenic, as measured by in vitro lymphoproliferative responses to HIV antigens in more than half of the immunized children. Although much work remains to be done in defining safe and effective HIV vaccines, including those that may be targeted to newborns, such results raise the possibility of attempting to prevent HIV transmission from mother to child by administering the vaccine shortly after perinatal exposure, which is analogous to postexposure prophylaxis by using measles, varicella, or hepatitis vaccines.

A GROWING MENU OF ADJUVANTS

The previous examples illustrate the feasibility and challenges of neonatal vaccine development. In this context, we now reflect on recent progress in adjuvant development and understanding immune ontogeny to project rational future paths for the development of neonatal and infant vaccines. Multiple adjuvant mechanisms have been described (36–38), including those that create an antigen depot; preserve antigen conformation; direct antigen to specific immune cells; activate antigen-presenting cells; induce mucosal responses; or induce cytotoxic T cell responses. It should be noted that adjuvants are not typically approved in and of themselves but as part of vaccine formulations.

Use of adjuvants that activate antigen-presenting cells is a particularly effective means of enhancing vaccine efficacy. However, in order to reduce reactogenicity, vaccine design has increasingly turned to the use of protein subunit vaccines composed of single protein molecules that can aggregate to form higher-order structures, potentially at the cost of reduced immunogenicity. In this context, inclusion of adjuvants in vaccine formulations can be crucial for antigen-dose sparing, broadening epitopes, and increasing responses in populations with distinct immunity, including the very young. Indeed, expanding awareness of pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) expressed on leukocytes, including antigen-presenting cells—as well as other host cells—and their ligands (microbial and endogenous danger signals that can act as adjuvants) has opened a new era in vaccine development (36). To the extent that the ontogeny of PRR function has been evaluated, functional expression has been noted to be age-dependent, with stimulus-induced expression of Th1-polarizing cytokines increasing with age (39); yet, for several families of PRRs this correlation has yet to be characterized (40). Another unknown is whether early-life exposure to adjuvants may contribute to chronic skewing of an individual's Th1/Th2 profile.

Importantly, TLR agonists are present in multiple vaccines that have been given to pediatric populations, including BCG (41) and the Hib vaccine that was adjuvanted with a *Neisseria meningitidis* group B outer membrane protein, which is a TLR2 agonist (42). The connections between this prior experience with administering TLR agonist-adjuvanted vaccines to children and current development of novel vaccine formulations, in which TLR agonists may be incorporated as adjuvants, is often underappreciated. These examples do not, of course, prove that all TLR agonists are safe and effective, but they do provide proof of concept for using PRR agonists as neonatal infant vaccine adjuvants.

THE ONTOGENY OF THE INFANT IMMUNE SYSTEM

Newborns possess a distinct innate and adaptive immune system comprising humoral components, antigen-presenting cells, and lymphocytes of distinct composition and function (Fig. 1) (39, 43, 44). Preterm newborns tend to have even more extreme differences in humoral and cellular immunity compared with those of adults and, correspondingly, an even greater susceptibility to infection (45) as well as reduced responsiveness to subunit glycoconjugate vaccines (such as pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) (46). Rational development of neonatal and infant vaccines will need to take immune ontogeny into account in preclinical development. The fetal and neonatal immune systems are biased

against Th1 responses, with CD4 lymphocyte responses that are often weaker and less sustained than those of adults. Although B cell antibody responses (T cell-independent) are impaired during infancy, T cell-dependent antibody responses mature earlier; nevertheless, multiple immunizations might be needed for newborns and young infants to achieve or sustain protective titers (44). Indeed, the neonatal immune system is heavily Th2- and Th17-biased, presumably to avoid pro-inflammatory/Th1-type allo-immune responses to maternal tissues that might trigger preterm birth or spontaneous abortion (39). Birth triggers a dramatic shift in environment that challenges the neonatal immune system to mediate the transition from a sterile intrauterine compartment to a foreign antigen-rich external environment, including initial microbial colonization of the skin and gastrointestinal tract.

Neonatal humoral components

There are marked differences in soluble immunomodulatory components of newborn and adult blood plasma (Fig. 1). Several mechanisms contribute to skewing neonatal antigen-presenting cells toward Th2-type responses—including placenta-derived mediators, such as transforming growth factor β , progesterone, and prostaglandin E2—that enhance Th2 cytokine production (47). Transplacental maternal antibodies can potentially reduce immune responses, although this effect can be overcome depending on antigen dose and epitope (or epitopes) (48, 49). Relative to adult blood plasma, neonatal plasma contains high concentrations of adenosine (Fig. 1), an endogenous purine metabolite that acts via adenosine receptors to induce intracellular cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) and selectively inhibits production of Th1-polarizing cytokines (39, 50). Newborn cord-blood also demonstrates lower plasma concentrations of antimicrobial proteins and peptides (51) and complement (45), which play important roles in innate and adaptive immune responses (52).

Neonatal antigen-presenting cells

There are both quantitative and qualitative differences between neonatal and adult antigen-presenting cells. Newborn cord-blood monocytes, dendritic cells (DCs), and monocyte-derived dendritic cells (MoDCs) demonstrate robust TLR-mediated response to support Th17- and Th2-type immunity [such as interleukin 6 (IL-6) and IL-23], which promotes defense against extracellular pathogens. However, neonatal monocytes, DCs, and MoDCs exhibit reduced Th1-type responses [such as tumor necrosis factor (TNF), interferon α (IFN- α), and IFN- γ], including reduced single-cell polyfunctional responses (Fig. 1), which are important for defense against intracellular pathogens (53). This neonatal polarization might partly reflect high cytosolic concentrations of inhibitory cAMP in newborn cord-blood mononuclear cells (39). The patterns of neonatal cytokine production appear to be relevant in vivo: During the first week of life, human neonatal peripheral serum levels of TNF remain low (relative to human adult serum), whereas levels of IL-6 increase (54). For many TLR agonists, cytokine responses increase to adult levels during the first months of life (55). One apparent exception to this pattern is the family of TLR8 agonists, which when tested in vitro induces adult levels of TNF and up-regulation of co-stimulatory molecules in newborn and infant whole blood, as well as cord-blood monocytes and MoDCs (56, 57).

Neonatal lymphocytes

Fetal T cells are distinct from adult T cells and arise from different populations of hematopoietic stem cells present at distinct developmental stages and biased toward immune tolerance (58). Neonatal lymphocytes demonstrate a high proportion of recent thymic emigrants and have distinct cellular function, including diminished proliferative and impaired IFN- γ responses (Fig. 1), the latter ascribed to promoter hypermethylation. Neonatal CD4⁺ cells show reduced stimulus-induced CD40 ligand up-regulation and an impaired capacity to provide help for B cell function. Moreover, newborns have an increased number and activity of inhibitory regulatory T cells (T_{reg} cells) that limit adaptive immune responses at birth and promote tolerance (Fig. 1) (59).

The B cell compartment is also distinct in early life. Naïve B cells predominate in early life, whereas CD27⁺ memory B cells increase during the first 6 months of life (60). Newborns and young infants use a biased antibody gene repertoire with a low frequency of somatic mutations, which might contribute to poor affinity maturation and impaired functional antibody responses (61). Despite these many limitations, neonatal lymphocytes can be activated under specific conditions with certain stimuli (43, 62, 63). For example, human newborns can mount CD8⁺ memory responses during congenital cytomegalovirus infection (64) and upon BCG immunization, as well as antibody responses to OPV and HBV (19). Much remains to be learned regarding the immunologic and molecular rules governing effective activation of neonatal and infant immune responses. Overall, rational approaches to the development of new vaccines for the very young must take into account immune ontogeny by ensuring that vaccine formulations targeting newborns and infants effectively engage their distinct immune systems.

INTEGRATING IMMUNE ONTOGENY WITH MODERN VACCINOLOGY

The present process of vaccine development for newborns and infants essentially focuses on ad hoc evaluation of vaccines originally developed for use in older individuals. However, the importance of early-life immunization is increasingly evident from practical (1), biomedical (63), and economic (65) perspectives. In this context, the characterization of immune ontogeny in relation to age-specific adjuvant effects will inform a new era of targeted vaccine development.

Development of novel vaccine formulations must take into account not only age-specific differences but also the distinct immune systems of nonhuman animals, including mice (66). Accordingly, for preclinical evaluation of pediatric vaccine components, including adjuvants, in vitro work using human neonatal and infant primary cells in media containing the relevant composition of human humoral components (such as autologous plasma) will be important for modeling the distinct immune responses of neonatal and infant monocytes, APCs, and lymphocytes (67). Related approaches have been recently described in adult settings (68). Results from such in vitro studies should inform the selection of appropriate preclinical animal models, to see whether the adjuvants identified in vitro are bioactive in neonates of the test species. Clinical trials should ensure that rigorous biomarker evaluation, including genome-wide transcriptional and proteomic approaches, are used to further refine age-specific markers of safety and efficacy (69). The accelerated schedule approach, in

which trials are designed to extend to earlier ages of initial immunization, remains important. However, if responses to a given vaccine formulation administered early in life are inadequate then addition of different adjuvant systems and formulations should be considered. Studies will need to take into account not only safety and efficacy but also potential vaccine-vaccine interactions that can lead to interference (70). Optimizing neonatal and infant vaccine formulations will also entail evaluation of distinct routes of administration (71), combination vaccines (72), live vector vaccines (73), and the possibility of genetic immunization (74).

Safety considerations, which are important for all biopharmaceutical development, are especially critical for vaccines because they are given to healthy individuals. The use of these agents in infants places all the more emphasis on rigorous safety evaluation. Proof-of-concept for safe and effective neonatal immunization exists in the form of vaccines such as BCG and HBV, which are given to millions of newborns and which have good safety profiles. Nevertheless, safety concerns are paramount in the development of any new biologic agent, particularly ones to be given to healthy newborns and infants. The potential benefits of neonatal vaccination are thus tempered by appropriate social and medical concerns about safety. Biopharmaceutical development of neonatal vaccines will have to proceed with caution within a viable development pathway, given the urgent unmet needs and great potential benefits of early-life immunization (7, 19). Although animal models will continue to be important in preclinical development, they do not necessarily reflect human immunology accurately. Moreover, there are few if any gold-standard safety biomarkers with respect to preclinical in vitro studies; some biomarkers that have been studied in this context include cytokines, acute-phase reactants, and prostaglandins (75). It will be important to benchmark the ability of novel vaccine formulations to induce responses from human neonatal and infant cells against existing vaccines in order to develop an understanding of potential correlates of protection and reactogenicity.

Correlates of protection are crucial vaccine study end-points, including antibody titers for protection against encapsulated bacteria and cytotoxic T cell responses for protection against intracellular pathogens. In some instances, vaccine formulations may be approved on the basis of clinical safety and surrogate markers of efficacy. Post-approval phase IV clinical evaluation can ultimately verify that immune responses known to be protective in adults or older children are also protective against disease in neonates and young infants.

ENSURING PROGRESS AND TRANSLATION

Although there are several challenges in developing vaccines for newborns and infants, proof-of-concept exists that this approach can be safe and effective and represents a promising strategy to reduce infant mortality (19). Most vaccine formulations that have been studied at birth have used Alum as an adjuvant (Tables 1 and 2); as such, novel adjuvants that are active at birth might be key in developing new and more effective neonatal vaccines (40). Progress will require support for basic and translational research in neonatal and infant immunology and vaccinology. Ongoing optimization of practical regulatory guidelines for vaccine formulation development will also be crucial to ensuring that safe and effective neonatal vaccines are developed to meet the urgent global challenge posed by infection.

Given the importance of early-life immunization and the vast amounts of new information regarding adjuvant formulations, routes of delivery, and immune ontogeny, a conceptual and practical framework for age-specific vaccine development is very much needed. The high disease burden early in life because of respiratory viral infections, including respiratory syncytial virus and influenza, suggests that early-life immunization, preferably at birth, might be the key to reducing the burden of these diseases as well. At particular risk are preterm newborns whose markedly distinct immune responses render them at especially high risk of infection (46, 76). National and international regulatory agencies will need to work with academia and industry to help define and validate specific biomarkers for vaccine safety and efficacy in newborns and young infants. Funding support from both government sources and private foundations will be key components for such progress. In this regard, the recent coordination by the United States National Institutes of Health and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop and host a workshop on “Challenges in Infant Immunity” (June 2010; Bethesda, Maryland) was a welcomed and important development in the field (63). Moreover, international collaboration will be crucial to ensure that formulations, adjuvants, and biomarkers identified apply to diverse populations throughout the world. Although progress has been made in reducing infant infection, more than 200 newborns and young infants die each hour from infection worldwide; therefore, the challenging but feasible task ahead must therefore be approached in a thoughtful and prudent yet urgent manner.

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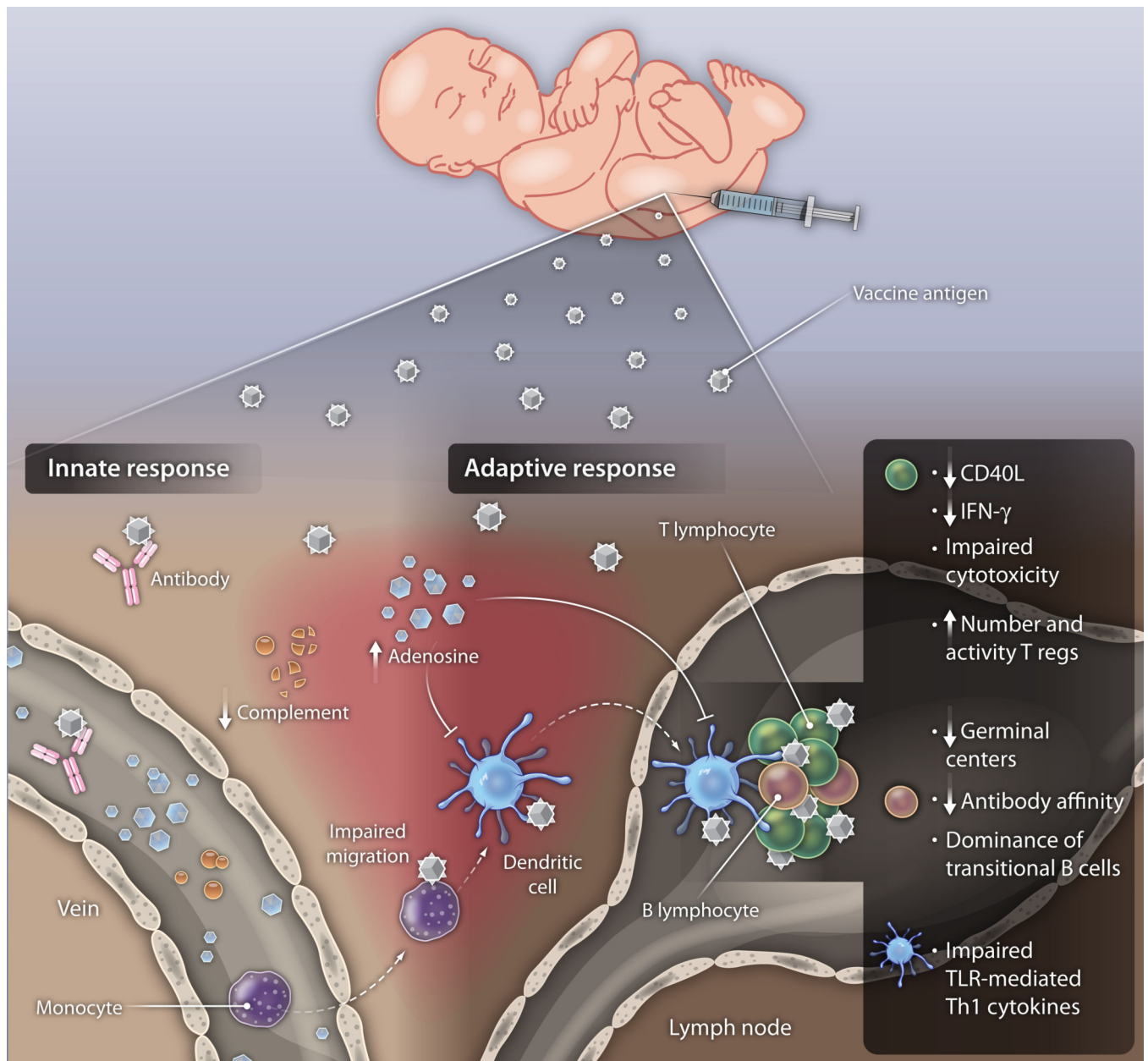


Fig. 1. Distinct humoral and cellular components of the neonatal immune system

Neonatal blood plasma contains a different proportion of key immunomodulatory components than older individuals, including the presence of maternal antibodies, high concentrations of immunomodulatory adenosine, and reduced concentrations of complement, which are important to adaptive immune responses. Differences in neonatal leukocytes include impaired migration and reduced Th1-polarizing responses of neonatal APCs to most TLR agonists. T cell impairments include diminished CD40 ligand expression and reduced IFN- γ production. Neonatal B cells are predominantly transitional and demonstrate impairments in antibody maturation and affinity.

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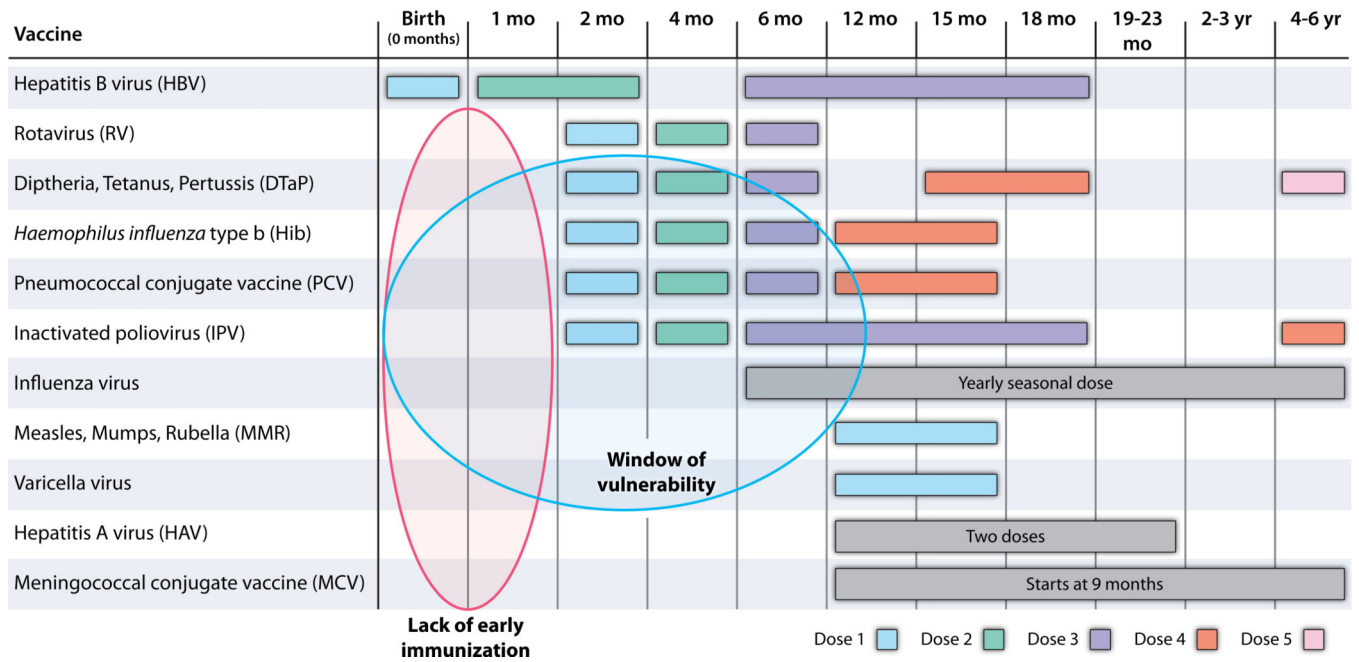


Fig. 2.

Table 1
Recommended immunization schedule for persons aged 0 through 6 years in the United States

Only HBV is given to newborns; thus, there is a lack of early immunization (blue oval). The window of vulnerability (orange oval) reflects a phase in which both immune immaturity and dearth of vaccine protection render the young infant particularly vulnerable to infection. [Adapted from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm>.]
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Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 6 Years—United States • 2010
 For those who fall behind or start late, see the catch-up schedule

Vaccine ▼	Age ►	Birth	1 month	2 months	4 months	6 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	19–23 months	2–3 years	4–6 years
Hepatitis B ¹		HepB	HepB				HepB					
Rotavirus ²				RV	RV	RV ²						
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis ³				DTaP	DTaP	DTaP	see footnote ³	DTaP				DTaP
Haemophilus influenzae type b ⁴				Hib	Hib	Hib ⁴	Hib					
Pneumococcal ⁵				PCV	PCV	PCV	PCV				PPSV	
Inactivated Poliovirus ⁶				IPV	IPV		IPV					IPV
Influenza ⁷							Influenza (Yearly)					
Measles, Mumps, Rubella ⁸							MMR		see footnote ⁸			MMR
Varicella ⁹							Varicella		see footnote ⁹			Varicella
Hepatitis A ¹⁰							HepA (2 doses)					HepA Series
Meningococcal ¹¹												MCV

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

FEW IMMUNIZATIONS (indicated by a red oval around the Birth, 1 month, and 2 months columns)

WINDOW OF VULNERABILITY (indicated by an orange oval around the 2 months to 12 months period)

Legend:
 Yellow box: Range of recommended ages for all children except certain high-risk groups
 Purple box: Range of recommended ages for certain high-risk groups

Table 2
Vaccines that have been licensed and/or tested in human newborns and infants

AS01, liposomes of MPL (monophosphoryl lipid A) and QS21 (saponin from the tree *Quillaja saponaria*); AS02, oil-in-water emulsion with MPL and QS21; ID, intradermal; IM, intramuscular; (NANP)50, series of tetrapeptides of four or five Asn-Ala-Asn-Pro repeats of immunodominant B cell epitope of *P. falciparum* circumsporozoite surface protein; PC, percutaneous; PRP-OMPC, Hib capsular polysaccharide conjugates with meningococcal outer membrane protein C; PRP-CRM, Hib capsular polysaccharide conjugates with diphtheria toxin; PRP-T, Hib capsular polysaccharide conjugates with tetanus toxin; RTS, S/AS01/2 (GlaxoSmithKline), a pre-erythrocytic vaccine based on *P. falciparum* circumsporozoite surface protein and the candidate malaria vaccine in advanced development; SC, subcutaneous; SPf66, synthetic 45-amino acid peptide vaccine containing linked blood and circumsporozoite stage sequences from four different proteins of *P. falciparum*.

Licensed	Youngest Age	Route	Vaccine (series)	Antigen	Adjuvant		Safety	Immune response	Limitations	Ref
					Intrinsic	Extrinsic				
	Newborn	PC; D	BCG (single)	<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>	TLR2/4/8/9	∅	Rare: disseminated	CD4, CD8, IFN γ	----	1
					?	Alum	MLAE (1-10%)	Ab (IgG)	-----	2
					ssRNA (TLR8?)	∅	Rare: revertant/paralysis	Neutralizing anti-PV Ab	Impaired CD4/IFN γ	3
	Infant	Oral	RV (2/4/6m)	Live attenuated virus	dsRNA (RIG-I?)	∅	Rare: intussusception	Ab (IgA)	Surrogate protection marker	22
					PTX (*TLR4)	Alum	NSAR	Ab (IgG)	----	23
					OMPC (TLR2)	∅ or with Alum	NSAR	Ab	-----	24
					?	Alum	MLAE (~20%)	T-cell dep. Ab (IgG)	-----	25
	IM; SC	IPV (2/4/6m)	Inactivated polio	Inactivated polio	ssRNA (*TLR8)	∅	NSAR to MLAE	Ab	-----	18
					ssRNA (TLR7/8?) dsRNA (TLR3;RIG-I?)	∅	MLAE (~10%)	HA Ab	Surrogate protection marker	21

Studied	Youngest Age	Route	Vaccine (series)	Antigen	Adjuvant		Safety	Immune response	Limitations	Ref
					Intrinsic	Extrinsic				
	Newborn	IM	Pertussis (0/1/2/4m)	PTX, pertactin, rHA; or Whole	PTX (?TLR4)	Alum	NSAR; MLAE-HSAE (whole)	Agglutinins & IgG Abs	Sub-optimal Ab levels	4
		IM	DTaP (0/2/4/6m)	Dip & Tet Toxoids	?	?	Alum	NSAR	Ab (IgG)	Lower Ab response @7mo than those without birth dose
		IM	Hib (0/4/14m)	PRP-CRM/-T	?	∅	NSAR	Ab (IgG)	----	16
		IM	PCV (0/1/2m)	CRM197-pneumo PSs	?	Alum	NSAR	CRM197 Th2>Th1	Polarizes subsequent TLR responses (Th2)	12
		IM	HIV (0/1/3/5m to infants of HIV-infected mothers)	HIV-1 gp120	?	MF59 or Alum	NSAR	Ab (IgG), LP	Alum-HIV <LP than MF59-HIV	13
		Oral	RV (0-2-4 vs. 2-4-6m)	4 live virus strains	?	∅	MLAE	Ab (IgA)	Lower, but still acceptable, IgA levels c birth dose	17
		IM	RTS, S/AS O1/2 (0/1/2 or 7m)	Circumsporozoite protein	?	AS01/2(TLR4)	MLAE	Ab	----	26
	Infant	IM	SPF66 (1/2/7m)	(NANP)50 and P. falciparum Lysate (IFAT).	?	Alum	NSAR	Ab(IgG)	Narrower/less sustained Ab response than in older children	27
		ID	IPV	Inactivated Poliovirus	ssRNA (?TLR8)	∅	MLAE	Ab to 3 serotypes	Lower Ab than IM	20

NSAR= No serious adverse reactions
 MLAE= mild local adverse effects
 HSAE= higher systemic adverse effects

Intramuscle= IM

Intradermal= ID

Percutaneous= PC

Subcutaneous= SC

LP = Lymphoproliferation

PRP-OMP= *Haemophilus influenzae* type b capsular polysaccharide conjugates with meningococcal protein OMPC

PRP-CRM= *Haemophilus influenzae* type b capsular polysaccharide conjugates with diphtheria toxoid (CRM)

PRP-T= *Haemophilus influenzae* type b capsular polysaccharide conjugates with tetanus toxoid

PTX= Pertussis Toxin

fHA= Filamentous hemagglutinin

MF59= oil-in-water emulsion of 0.5% polysorbate 80, 0.5% sorbitan trioleate, and 0.5% squalene

MPL= monophosphoryl lipid A

QS21= a saponin from the tree *Quillaja saponaria*

AS02 Adjuvant System= an oil-in-water emulsion with MPL and QS21

AS01 Adjuvant System = liposomes of MPL and QS21

SPf66 = SPf66 is a synthetic peptide containing antigens from the blood stages of malaria linked together with an antigen from the sporozoite stage

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