



Vitamin K Policy Signature Form

Northwest Pediatric Care in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all newborns receive an intramuscular (IM) Vitamin K shortly after birth. Intramuscular administration of vitamin K for prevention of vitamin K deficiency bleeding (VKDB) has been a standard of care since the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended it in 1961.

Why is this important?

Your baby is born with low levels of Vitamin K, which is needed for the blood to clot properly. Without needed levels of Vitamin K, your baby is at risk for Vitamin K deficient bleeding (VKDB). This condition, while rare, can cause bleeding into any part of the body including the brain, stomach, skin or mucous membranes and while rare can lead to death in an infant.

The bleeding can be minor or can be very serious, including bleeding into the brain. This can cause lifelong disability and even death. In addition, it is not recommended to perform a circumcision on a baby without providing a Vitamin K shot.

Your baby's natural levels of Vitamin K will rise slowly over the next few months but will not fully protect your baby from Vitamin K deficiency bleeding in the newborn period.

Risks vs Benefits

Reasons for parental refusal of IM vitamin K administration include but are not limited to, concern about pain of the injection and concern related to the preservative in the formulation. There is no evidence that the small amount of preservative, benzyl alcohol, is associated with toxicity, and many infants receive preservative-free vitamin K. Here at Northwest Pediatric Care, our IM Vitamin K is preservative-free.

Many studies have been done to be sure that IM Vitamin K is safe for your baby. There have also been studies to determine whether oral (by mouth) doses of Vitamin K can be used instead. Taking Vitamin K by mouth has not been shown to be as effective as IM Vitamin K in preventing bleeding in the newborn period.

Northwest Pediatric Care takes the stance that the one-time administration IM Vitamin K is the best prophylaxis treatment in the prevention of life-threatening bleeding and complications in infants. Providers will not give medical advice on the oral dosing of Vitamin K.

I understand that my decision to refuse Vitamin K administration is not in line with the medical standards recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and/or Northwest Pediatric Care, and it goes against the medical advice of my infant's provider. I have been thoroughly informed about the purpose and benefits of Vitamin K administration, as well as the potential risks and complications associated with its refusal.

I (Parent/Guardian) _____ acknowledge that I have read the document in its entirety and fully understand it.

I request that the administration of Vitamin K for the prevention of bleeding disorders **BE** given to my infant

Patients name _____ D.O.B: ____/____/____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

I request that the administration of Vitamin K for the prevention of bleeding disorders **NOT** be given to my infant

By refusing the administration of Vitamin K for my infant, I acknowledge that the infant will be discharged from the practice. I acknowledge and accept full responsibility for informing other healthcare providers outside of my infant's Pediatrician that the administration of Vitamin K has not been performed especially when it relates surgical procedures.

Patients name _____ D.O.B: ____/____/____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Witness: _____ Date: ____/____/____

RESOURCES:

FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS| POLICY STATEMENT| FEBRUARY 22 2022

Vitamin K and the Newborn Infant

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