



Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine Consent, EDI

Primary Varicella Zoster (Chickenpox) is a common infection that the majority of men and women contracted during childhood. It is estimated that only 3% of those with a probable history of Chicken Pox will not be immune. However, for those with a negative or unknown history, the risk for non-immunity risk rises to 20%. There is now a vaccine available which protects the woman and her unborn child from Chickenpox.

Chickenpox infections occur in only about 1/2000 pregnancies. Most of the time, neither the child nor the mother are adversely affected when the mother is exposed to Chickenpox. Some exceptions do, however, exist:

- If exposure occurs within the first 12 weeks of gestation, the risks of Congenital Varicella Syndrome increase to an estimated 3% or less. Babies affected by Congenital Varicella Syndrome may have small limbs, skin lesions, blindness and neurological defects including mental retardation. The syndrome also leads to a higher risk of stillbirth.
- If a non-immune mom is exposed to Chickenpox just prior to or following delivery, the child has a 20% risk for contracting a severe case of Chickenpox with 30% of these children dying.
- If the woman gets Chickenpox anytime during pregnancy, she can contract pneumonia with up to 25% of these women dying. Thankfully, these complications occur infrequently.

If possible, we would like to minimize the risks of any Varicella infections through vaccination.

The following recommendations are suggested by your physician:

- If you have a history of Chickenpox, antibody testing is normally not done and the vaccine not administered.
- If you **uncertain** or know that you never had Chickenpox, the following is suggested:
 - ⇒ Check an antibody titer to see if you are immune.
 - ⇒ If the antibody titer indicates no previous infection, administer the vaccine.
- If the vaccine is given, one may want to wait just one month before conceiving, although no newborn children have been found to have problems when they were conceived shortly following the mother getting the vaccine.

The complications of the vaccine include redness and soreness at the injection site. Rare allergic reactions can also take place. Please keep in mind that length of immunity following vaccine administration is currently uncertain and that additional booster(s) may be required in the future.

After reading the above material, I hereby agree to the following (Initials only):

(Initials only): _____ I **DO NOT** want Chickenpox antibody testing or the vaccine administered.

(Initials only): _____ I would like the antibody test, and if not immune, I agree to have the
Chickenpox vaccine administered.

Patient

____/____/____
Date

Witness

____/____/____
Date