

Why is Formaldehyde Used to Make Vaccines?



Formaldehyde has a long history of safe use in the manufacture of certain viral & bacterial vaccines.

- It is used to inactivate viruses so that they don't cause disease (e.g., polio virus used to make polio vaccine) and to detoxify bacterial toxins, such as the toxin used to make diphtheria vaccine.
- Formaldehyde is diluted during the vaccine manufacturing process, but residual quantities of formaldehyde may be found in some current vaccines.ⁱ
- Formaldehyde's use as an inactivating agent in vaccines is clearly defined and well-regulated by the FDA.ⁱⁱ



Our bodies normally have formaldehyde in the blood stream and at levels higher than in vaccines.ⁱⁱⁱ

- Studies have shown that for a newborn of average weight of 6 - 8 pounds, the amount of formaldehyde in their body is 50-70 times higher than the upper amount that they could receive from a single dose of a vaccine or from vaccines administered over time.^{iv}
- The total quantity of formaldehyde found naturally in an 11 lb. (5 kg) infant's circulation is about 10 times more than contained in any individual vaccine.^v
- Quantities of formaldehyde at least 600-fold greater than that contained in vaccines have been given safely to animals.^{vi}

ⁱ <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/SafetyAvailability/VaccineSafety/ucm187810.htm>

ⁱⁱ <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/112/6/1394.full>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www2.aap.org/immunization/families/faq/Vaccineingredients.pdf>

^{iv} <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/SafetyAvailability/VaccineSafety/ucm187810.htm>

^v <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/112/6/1394.full>

^{vi} <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/112/6/1394.full>