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OUR VACCINE POLICY

We have taken a very proactive approach toward vaccinating our patients. Our education begins with prenatal visit and continues at each well check. We do practice within the guidelines of American Academy of Pediatrics, and we do encourage all vaccines at recommended time.

Our role as physicians is to encourage vaccination, to provide honest and data-based information on the vaccine and the disease it prevents, and vaccinate children with the consent of their parents. We are available to address all of parental concerns.

Parents have duty to vaccinate their children, both for the good of the child and for the good of the community. They have a duty to prevent their children from spreading disease to other people.

Vaccine refusal is often one step in a one-sided parent-physician relationship, where our experience, training and expertise are disregarded. By agreeing to parents requests, we are not only compromising patient's health, but assume tremendous liability when health fails. This holds true for vaccines, antibiotics and any advice we may dispense during office visits.

If parent is absolutely refuses all vaccinations or persistently is not complaint with physician advice, we ask them to find another provider who shares their beliefs. We realize that this kind of practice is counterproductive. The person, who suffers the consequences of that decision, is the child who no longer has that physician as a source of quality health care.

Most of our vaccines are preservative-free. There is no higher risk from receiving combination vaccines or vaccinating child with multiple vaccines at the same visit. We still do recommend all vaccine according with the schedule, since early childhood is an excellent opportunity to complete the schedule. Absence of vaccination against some of the diseases like Hepatitis B, Polio e.g. may impose tremendous risk during adolescence. There might be multiple financial, psychological and technical difficulties to complete optimal schedule at later age.

Parents will be asked to sign "refusal to vaccinate" acknowledgement for optional vaccines only: **Hepatitis A, Rotavirus, Influenza, Meningococcal vaccine, Human Papillomavirus Vaccine.**

All other vaccines will be given at recommended time. We will make special arrangements for travel and medical reasons.

We will not split multiple vaccines for several visits, since that practice is harmful for the child.

We will not make special arrangements in purchasing **Rubella, Measles and Mumps** vaccines separately.

MMR and Varicella Vaccines may be postponed until child's second birthday, provided parents accept all risks, associated with that schedule.

For most updated information on vaccines please visit: www.cdc.gov/nip ;
www.aap.org/healthtopics/Autism.cfm