Mo THE MIDWIFE
EDUCATE EMPOWER SUPPORT

NORMAL NEWBORN MEDICATIONS AT BIRTH

A Strong Start for a Healthy Tomorrow



Your baby will be offered three routine medications after birth. These are safe, recommended, and help protect your newborn during the first days and weeks of life.

1 VITAMIN K
INJECTION

Helps prevent serious bleeding in your newborn.



WHAT IS IT?
Vitamin K helps your baby's blood clot properly.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?
- Newborns have low vitamin K levels at birth.
- Helps prevent Vitamin K Deficiency Bleeding (VKDB), which can cause serious internal bleeding, including in the brain.
- Breast milk contains low amounts of vitamin K, so the injection gives your baby the protection they need.

BENEFITS
- Helps prevent life-threatening bleeding
- Safe and well tolerated
- One-time injection
- Protection during the first months of life

2 ERYTHROMYCIN
EYE OINTMENT

Helps prevent serious eye infections.



WHAT IS IT?
A small amount of antibiotic ointment is placed in your baby's eyes shortly after birth.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?
- Helps prevent eye infections caused by bacteria that can be passed from mother to baby during delivery (such as gonorrhea or chlamydia).
- These infections can cause serious eye problems, including blindness, if not treated.

BENEFITS
- Protects your baby's eyes from severe infection
- Safe, quick, and painless
- Only given once
- Helps keep your baby's vision healthy

3 HEPATITIS B
VACCINE

Helps protect your baby from a serious liver infection.



HEPAT IS IT?
A vaccine that helps your baby build immunity against the hepatitis B virus (HBV).

WHY IS IT NEEDED?
- Hepatitis B is a serious liver infection that can be lifelong.
- It can be passed from mother to baby during birth or through close household contact.
- The first dose is given at birth to start protection early, even before your baby is exposed.

BENEFITS
- Helps prevent a serious liver infection
- Safe and effective
- Part of the recommended childhood vaccine schedule
- Works with future doses to provide long-term protection

IMPORTANT TO KNOW
- These medications are routinely recommended for all newborns.
- They are safe, effective, and have been used for many years.
- Side effects are rare and usually mild.
- You will have the opportunity to ask questions before they are given.
- If you choose to decline any of these medications, please discuss your concerns with your baby's healthcare provider.

Small Protections Big Futures

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Please discuss any questions or concerns with your obstetric provider, pediatrician, or midwife.
This information is for educational purposes only and does not replace individualized medical advice.