Clinical Evaluation Tool for Smallpox Vaccine Adverse Reactions
Dermatologic Reactions/ Localized to Vaccination Site (01/19/2011 Version)

www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/clineval

Vaccine Recipient? NO Close Contact of Vaccine Recipient? YES

Go to Dermatologic Reactions/ Nontoxic Appearance, Distant from Vaccination Site (or in a Contact) Clinical Evaluation Tool.

Normal Vaccination Reaction

Typical reaction timeline
Day Description
0 Vaccination
3-4 Papule
5-6 Vesicle with surrounding erythema - vesicle with depressed center
8-9 Well-formed pustule
12+ Pustule crusts over and becomes a scab
17-21 Scab detaches revealing scar

Timeline may be accelerated in persons with history of prior smallpox vaccination.

Major reaction. Area of definite induration or congestion surrounding a central lesion that may be a scab or ulcer 6-8 days after vaccination. Equivocal reaction. Any reaction or response other than a "major reaction."

Consultation and Reporting Information
Civilian health care providers who need clinical consultation with or without release of vaccinia immune globulin (VIG) (first line agent) or cidofovir (second line agent) for potential smallpox vaccine adverse reactions should contact their state/ local health department or CDClINFO at (800)232-4636. Military health care providers (or civilian providers treating a DoD healthcare beneficiary) requesting clinical consultation should call (866) 210-6469, and if requesting VIG release should call (888)USA-RIID or (301) 619-2257.

Health care providers should report smallpox vaccine adverse events to their state/ local health department and to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at http://www.vaers.org/ or (800) 822-7967.

Please call (888) 246-2675 (Español (888) 246-2857, TTY (886) 874-2646) or visit http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp for general public information about smallpox vaccination. Persons experiencing urgent or life-threatening medical events should seek immediate medical assistance.

Disclaimer The CDC and its partners in the Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) network have developed Clinical Evaluation Tools to help health care providers manage patients with potential adverse reactions from smallpox vaccination in the absence of circulating smallpox virus (pre-event setting). These Tools are based on studies conducted before routine US childhood smallpox vaccination was discontinued in 1972 and on expert opinion; they are not entirely evidence-based. The Tools may not apply to all patients with smallpox vaccine adverse reactions and are not intended to substitute for evaluation by a trained clinician. This Tool was last updated on 1-19-11. Please direct feedback on these Tools to spoxtool@cdc.gov.