

UNDERSTANDING A RISK-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

HOW TO PROTECT INFORMED CONSENT IN VACCINATION CHOICES

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The best risk-benefit analysis goes beyond scoring points for good or bad outcomes. It also considers the likelihood that the good or bad will happen and the intensity of each.

It's not about tipping scales between one side or another, it's more like balancing a tray of food and drinks while weaving through a busy restaurant.

There are a lot of things to consider, and each consideration has its own weight, importance, and relationship to each other.

WHAT IF I DON'T VACCINATE?

- **What is the chance my child will get sick?** _____
 - How does natural infection usually occur? _____
 - For children, are they being breastfed? _____
 - Are they in a setting with many others like daycare or are they at home primarily? _____
 - When looking at statistics, are they global, including countries with poverty and less access to care, or is it only the US? _____
 - How bad can it get? _____
 - How likely is it to have a serious outcome? _____
 - Is a serious outcome reversible? _____
 - How often does it get very bad? _____
 - How long does the illness last? _____
 - Can reinfection occur? _____
- **Are there any benefits to an illness or infection happening?** _____
 - Does natural immunity outweigh a medical intervention? _____
 - Does the illness set the immune system up to battle off other infections? _____
- **What are the alternatives to medical intervention?** _____
 - How likely are they to be effective? _____
- **Can I change my mind later if I get more information, or my child's health and environmental circumstances change?** _____
 - Are there any specific benefits or risks to waiting? _____
 - Will the effectiveness of the vaccine wear off before there is risk of illness? _____

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED ABOUT A VACCINATION?

- **Will it work to stop an illness?** _____
 - Can this vaccine stop transmission to others? _____
 - If so, does that outweigh the risks to the person getting the vaccine? _____
 - Can the vaccine hurt others through shedding? _____
 - If I get sick, will the symptoms be more or less severe than natural infection? _____
 - _____
 - Does the vaccine cause mutations in the natural infection agent?
 - Is the vaccine being recommended made to combat the disease version that is circulating? _____
 - How long do the promised benefits of the vaccine last? _____
 - Will more doses be necessary? _____
 - How does vaccine immunity compare to natural immunity? _____
 - _____
- **What are the risks of the vaccination?** _____
 - Do we know all the risks? _____
 - If we do not, that itself is a risk—we don't know what could happen.
 - How long was the vaccine studied before being recommended? _____
 - Why wasn't it tested against an unvaccinated control group? _____
 - Can the person administering the vaccine answer these questions? _____
 - What other ingredients are in the vaccine that could potentially cause harm?
 - _____
 - Do those ingredients accumulate in the body? _____
 - Can they be detoxed? _____
- **What are the potential side effects?** _____
 - How likely is it that those side effects will happen? _____
 - How severe can those side effects be, both in intensity and duration? _____
 - _____
 - Can the side effect be reversed, or is it permanent? _____
 - How do the potential reactions to the vaccine compare to the potential natural illness?
 - _____
- **If the vaccine causes injury, how likely am I to get compensation and support for ongoing medical care and rehabilitation?** _____
 - How many people filed VAERS reports for this vaccine? _____
 - How many people were compensated through "vaccine court"? _____

What now? It's up to you. There are serious social, psychological, and financial pressures people face when questioning vaccines. Use our resources to jump-start your research to build confidence, and find others in your community or state who can support you in exercising your right to informed consent.

Don't feel pressured to rush into vaccination before you feel confident in your choice. You can always "catch up" to recommendations, **but you can never unvaccinate.**