

Mayo Clinic Minute

The ABC's of the DTaP vaccine

Video	Audio
	Since babies don't come into the world immune from most illnesses, their first few rounds of vaccinations are critical.
00:07:59 DR. NIPUNIE RAJAPAKSE 01:	"The DTaP vaccine is a kind of [the] backbone of our vaccination strategy for young children."
	Dr. Nipunie Rajapakse, a Mayo Clinic pediatric infectious diseases specialist, says the "D" in "DTaP" stands for diphtheria.
00:01:15 DR. NIPUNIE RAJAPAKSE 01: Pediatric Infectious Diseases Mayo Clinic	"The reason we don't see it in the United States anymore is also thanks to vaccines like this that have been part of the routine schedule for quite some time and have allowed us to eradicate that disease."
	But cases still occur, and kids who get it risk bad effects on the heart and other organs.
	The "T" in "DTaP" stands for tetanus, which can develop any time dirt or soil gets into a wound.
00:03:12 DR. NIPUNIE RAJAPAKSE 01:	"The bacteria can produce a toxin that affects the abilities of the muscles to work."
	And finally, the "AP" in "DTaP" stands for acellular pertussis, also known as whooping cough.
00:05:25 DR. NIPUNIE RAJAPAKSE 01:	"Usually circulating in areas where there's low levels of vaccine protection, and it is a very serious infection, especially for young infants."
	For unvaccinated babies under 6 months, whooping cough can be deadly.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Ian Roth.