

Appendix 12:

TETANUS IMMUNOPROPHYLAXIS FOR THE INJURED PATIENT

Patients who have completed a 3-dose primary tetanus vaccination series and have received a tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine <5 years before the injury do not require a tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine for wound management.

Table A12-1. Summary of Tetanus Prophylaxis in Routine Wound Management for Patients Between the Ages of 11 and 64 Years

HISTORY OF ADSORBED TETANUS TOXOID (Doses)	CLEAN, MINOR WOUNDS (Not Prone to Tetanus)		ALL OTHER (Tetanus-Prone) WOUNDS	
	Tdap or Td ^a	TIG	Tdap or Td ^a	TIG
Unknown or <3	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
≥3	No ^b	No	No ^c	No

Tdap, tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, acellular pertussis vaccine; Td, tetanus toxoid and reduced diphtheria toxoid — for adult use (dose = 0.5 mL); TIG, tetanus immune globulin — human (dose = 250 IU).

^a Tdap is preferred to Td for adults vaccinated ≥5 years earlier and adolescents who have never received Tdap. Td is preferred to tetanus toxoid (TT) for patients who received Tdap previously or when Tdap is not available. If TT and TIG are both used, tetanus toxoid adsorbed rather than tetanus toxoid for booster use only (fluid vaccine) should be used.

^b Yes, if ≥10 years since the last tetanus toxoid-containing dose.

^c Yes, if ≥5 years since the last tetanus toxoid-containing dose.

Table A12-2. Summary of Tetanus Prophylaxis in Routine Wound Management for Children and Adolescents

HISTORY OF ADSORBED TETANUS TOXOID (Doses)	CLEAN, MINOR WOUNDS		ALL OTHER WOUNDS ¹	
	Td or Tdap ²	TIG ³	Td or Tdap ²	TIG ³
Unknown or <3	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
≥3 ⁴	No ⁵	No	No ⁶	No

Td, adult type diphtheria and tetanus toxoid vaccines; TIG, tetanus immune globulin (human); Tdap, booster tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, acellular pertussis.

- ¹ Such as, but not limited to, wounds contaminated with dirt, feces, soil, and saliva; puncture wounds; avulsions; and wounds resulting from missiles, crushing, burns, and frostbite.
- ² Tdap is preferred to Td for adolescents who never have received Tdap. Td is preferred to tetanus toxoid (TT) for adolescents who received Tdap previously or when Tdap is not available.
- ³ Intravenous immune globulin should be used when TIG is not available.
- ⁴ If only 3 doses of fluid toxoid have been received, a fourth dose of toxoid, preferably an adsorbed toxoid, should be given. Although licensed, fluid TT rarely is used.
- ⁵ Yes, if ≥ 10 years since the last tetanus-containing vaccine dose.
- ⁶ Yes, if ≥ 5 years since the last tetanus-containing vaccine dose. More frequent boosters are not needed and can accentuate adverse effects.

From American Academy of Pediatrics. Tetanus. In: Pickering, LK, Baker, CJ, Long, SS, McMillan JA, eds. *Red Book: 2006 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 27th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2006: 648-653



Suggested Readings

1. Broder KR, Cortese MM, Iskander JK, et al. Preventing tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis among adolescents: use of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccines recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR Recomm Rep*. 2006;55(RR-3):1-34.
2. Kretsinger K, Broder KR, Cortese MM, et al. Preventing tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis among adults: use of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and recommendation of ACIP, supported by the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), for use of Tdap among healthcare personnel. *MMWR Recomm Rep*. 2006; 55(RR-17):1-37.



Web Site

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov>