Appendix 43. Severe allergic reaction to a vaccine

Severe allergic reaction to a vaccine
Within 5 to 30 mn after injection, cutaneous signs (redness, swelling) associated with:

Shock
Tachycardia, weak pulse, hypotension
Lie the patient flat and raise the legs

Upper airway obstruction
Face and tongue swelling, difficulty in breathing, respiratory noise
Bronchospasm
Difficulty in breathing, wheeze
Place the patient in semi-sitting position

Administer by deep IM injection into the anterolateral thigh, 0.01 mg/kg of epinephrine (adrenaline):
Use an ampoule containing 1 mg epinephrine/ml and a 1 ml-syringe graduated in 0.01ml).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Dose of epinephrine</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 years</td>
<td>0.15 ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 12 years</td>
<td>0.3 ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 12 years and adults</td>
<td>0.5 ml</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If no improvement, repeat the injection after 5 minutes.

Transfer the patient immediately to the hospital with a health worker.

• If available, give oxygen.
• If possible, insert an IV line and administer:
  Ringer lactate or 0.9% sodium chloride: 20 ml/kg in children < 12 years
  500 ml in children > 12 years and adults
  Hydrocortisone hemisuccinate IV: 2 ml/kg in children < 12 years
  200 mg in children > 12 years and adults

• Record: vital signs (pulse rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate, etc.), time and dose of all administered treatments. Ensure that this information is handed over during the transfer.
• Indicate on the immunization card: « severe anaphylactic reaction on ________________ (date) following injection of ________________________ vaccine » so that the person is never administered the vaccine again.