

B, rabies, rubella, tetanus, varicella zoster (shingles), and respiratory syncytial virus infections.

INDIVIDUAL IMMUNIZING AGENTS

Vaccines and toxoids and immune serums are listed in the Drugs at a Glance tables.

Nursing Process

Assessment

Assess the client's immunization status by obtaining the following information:

- Determine the client's previous history of diseases for which immunizing agents are available (eg, measles, influenza).
- Ask if the client has had previous immunizations.
 - For which diseases were immunizations received?
 - Which immunizing agent was received?
 - Were any adverse effects experienced? If so, what symptoms occurred, and how long did they last?
 - Was tetanus toxoid given for any cuts or wounds?
 - Did any foreign travel require immunizations?
- Determine whether the client has any conditions that contraindicate administration of immunizing agents (eg, malignancy, pregnancy, immunosuppressive drug therapy).
- For pregnant women not known to be immunized against rubella, serum antibody titer should be measured to determine resistance or susceptibility to the disease.
- For clients with wounds, assess the type of wound and determine how, when, and where it was sustained. Such information may reveal whether tetanus immunization is needed.
- For clients exposed to infectious diseases, try to determine the extent of exposure (eg, household or brief, casual contact) and when it occurred.

Nursing Diagnoses

- Deficient Knowledge: Importance of maintaining immunizations for both children and adults
- Risk for Fluid Volume Deficit related to inadequate intake and febrile reactions to immunizing agent
- Noncompliance in obtaining recommended immunizations related to fear of adverse effects
- Risk for Injury related to hypersensitivity, fever, and other adverse drug effects

Planning/Goals

The client will:

- Avoid diseases for which immunizations are available and recommended

- Obtain recommended immunizations for children and self
- Keep appointments for immunizations

Interventions

Use measures to prevent infectious diseases, and provide information about the availability of immunizing agents. General measures include those to promote health and resistance to disease (eg, nutrition, rest, and exercise). Additional measures include the following:

- Education of the public, especially parents of young children, regarding the importance of immunizations to personal and public health. Include information about the diseases that can be prevented and where immunizations can be obtained.
- Assisting clients in developing a system to maintain immunization records for themselves and their children. This is important because immunizations are often obtained at different places and over a period of years. Written, accurate, up-to-date records help to prevent diseases and unnecessary immunizations.
- Prevention of disease transmission. The following are helpful measures:
 - Hand washing (probably the most effective method)
 - Avoiding contact with people who have known or suspected infectious diseases, when possible
 - Using isolation techniques when appropriate
 - Using medical and surgical aseptic techniques
- For someone exposed to rubeola, administration of measles vaccine within 48 hours to prevent the disease
- For someone with a puncture wound or a dirty wound, administration of tetanus immune globulin to prevent tetanus, a life-threatening disease
- For someone with an animal bite, washing the wound immediately with large amounts of soap and water. Health care should then be sought. Administration of rabies vaccine may be needed to prevent rabies, a life-threatening disease.
- Explaining to the client that contracting rubella or undergoing rubella immunization during pregnancy, especially during the first trimester, may cause severe birth defects in the infant. The goal of immunization is to prevent congenital rubella syndrome. Current recommendations are to immunize children against rubella at 12 to 15 months of age.

It is recommended that previously unimmunized girls 11 to 13 years of age be immunized. Further, nonpregnant women of childbearing age should have rubella antibody tests. If antibody concentrations are low, the women should be immunized. Pregnancy should be avoided for 3 months after immunization.

Evaluation

- Interview and observe for symptoms.
- Interview and observe for adverse drug effects.
- Check immunization records when indicated.

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