

BMC recalls vaccine batch after baby dies

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Mumbai: Civic officials are scrambling for answers after three-month-old Megha Devkari died on Thursday, hours after she was administered an oral polio vaccine and two injections for Hepatitis-B and DTP. The BMC conducted a health check on the eight children who, along with Megha, had been vaccinated from the same vial on Wednesday. Though all were found to be healthy, BMC has stopped usage of the batch. "The vaccines had a particular batch number. Nearly 95,000 people have been administered the DPT vaccine and 169 doses of oral polio have been given to people over the last few months. No complications have been reported," said Dr Arun Bamne, BMC joint executive health officer.

Samples of the vaccines will be sent to pathology lab in Kasauli. Dr Nitin Shah, former president of Indian Academy of Paediatrics, said that while it is possible for a body to experience adverse effects after vaccination, Megha's death cannot be linked to the vaccines without proper investigation. "It may also be possible that the child was suffering from some complication and the fever triggered by the vaccine (which is normal) aggravated the condition."

Dr Hemant Thacker, who consults in Jaslok Hospital, said: "In rare cases, a vaccine microbe may cause the same disease against which it was sent to prepare the body. But



WHAT IS A VACCINE

A vaccine is a 'biological preparation' created to improve a person's immunity to a particular disease. It contains an agent that resembles the disease-causing microorganism, and is often made from weakened or killed forms of the microbe

Risk Factor | In rare instances, it is possible for the 'weakened microbe' to develop into a more virulent form either once it is administered into patient's body or even before. If the microbes get activated, the disease may manifest in the patient. The time period is usually more than a week. Three-month old Megha Devkari died on Thursday within ten hours of being administered the vaccine

How It Works

- The vaccine stimulates the body's immune system to recognize the agent as a foreign, body destroy it, and 'remember' it.
- At a later stage, the body recognizes the protein coat on the virus, and is prepared to respond by neutralizing it before it can enter cells. It recognizes and destroys infected cells

it takes nearly a week for the body to get the disease." Megha died on Thursday, 10 hours after she was vaccinated.

A vaccine may also cause an uncontrolled allergic reaction. "Vaccine components

include chicken embryo, sheep cells, or monkey blood cultures. In vaccines like that of Hepatitis-B, the component is human recombinant DNA, which is the only one that does not cause reaction," he said.