

Smallpox - Cutaneous Contraindications Questionnaire (ACIP, 2002)

The following questionnaire is intended to identify those individuals who have cutaneous conditions that are contraindications for smallpox vaccination. A yes response to any of the following questions may be a contraindication to vaccination if no smallpox is present.

Are you using medications that could significantly irritate the skin or alter local immunity? Examples include topical immunomodulators (tacrolimus, pimecrolimus), or retinoids with a potential for irritation.

You may receive the vaccine after these drugs have been discontinued and no evidence of irritation exists; you may re-institute these medications after the vaccine scab has healed.

Do you or any family members have atopic dermatitis? This particular form of eczema puts one at higher risk for adverse side effects from the vaccine. These negative side effects can occur even if your atopic dermatitis is not active. In addition, if people in your family have atopic dermatitis, they can inadvertently get inoculated from your vaccine site and also develop side effects of the vaccine, even if you don't have atopic dermatitis. Therefore, people with this form of eczema, or families who have a member with atopic dermatitis should not be vaccinated, even if the condition appears to have resolved or is inactive.

Unfortunately, some people are unaware if they have this form of eczema. The following questions are intended to help you recall if you or your family members have atopic dermatitis.

Have you, or your family members

1. Been told you had eczema in childhood?
2. Suffered from an itchy red rash that persists, or comes and goes, and has not been identified as another skin condition? (Atopic dermatitis generally first develops in childhood, involves the creases of the arms and legs, and may involve the cheeks in childhood. Affected individuals frequently have dry skin and a personal or family history of asthma and/or hay fever.)

You should not receive the vaccine if you answer yes to either question 1 or 2.