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## Debunking Medical Myths: Do Newborns Need The Vitamin K Shot?

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# Do Newborns need the vitamin k shot?



## What is the vitamin K Shot?

The vitamin K shot helps blood coagulate in infants after birth

## Why is blood coagulation important?

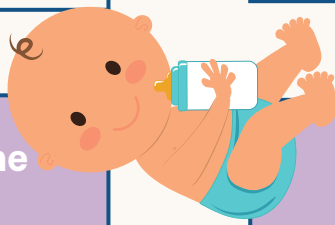
Infants are at increased risk to bleed into their gut and brain due to vitamin K deficiency bleeding (VKDB)

## Can I wait to give my child the Vitamin K shot?

No, it is recommended the vitamin K shot be administered within the first 6 hours of life

## Can infants get vitamin K naturally?

No, Newborn babies have low vitamin K levels at birth and breast milk is also deficient in vitamin K



## Vitamin K Deficiency Bleeding Facts

**1/5**

Vitamin K deficiency bleeding mortality rate

**2/5**

with VKDB suffer long term neurological damage

**1/60**

infants without the vitamin K shot experience VKDB

## Vitamin K Deficiency Bleeding Myths

### Myth Origins

A 1992 study by Golding et al. reported that infants who received the vitamin K shot were 3x more likely to develop childhood leukemia

**No studies to date have been able to replicate these findings**



Myth	Fact
Vitamin K shots increase my child's likelihood of developing leukemia	There is no association between exposure to Vitamin K administration as an infant and the subsequent development of leukemia

Myth	Fact
The incidence of childhood cancer has increased since the approval of the Vitamin K shot in 1961	There was no increase in childhood cancer from 1948 to 1990, indicating no association between vitamin K and cancer