



Why do children need so many vaccines?

MARK SAWYER, MD: There are a lot of vaccines, and I can say as an infectious disease doctor, that's a great thing. We are eliminating diseases that I used to see all the time in my clinical practice.

MARY BETH KOSLAP-PETRACO, DNP(C), CPNP: Years ago when my boys were small, all we could prevent was diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough and hope that those older vaccines would work. And then all of a sudden measles, mumps and rubella vaccine came along.

MARK SAWYER, MD: Despite the increase in the number of vaccines we're giving, there's no signal that they're causing any kind of problem or side effect. And the benefit is we're protecting young children from those diseases now.

PAUL OFFIT, MD: As long as there are diseases that routinely cause children to suffer or be hospitalized or die, and as long as we can make vaccines that can safely prevent them, then we should do that. We certainly know that the 14 different vaccines that children get in the first few years of life do not weaken their immune system, it doesn't alter their immune system, it doesn't overwhelm their immune system, they can easily handle it. And so as long as you can safely prevent these diseases, then prevent them.