

## **Tetanus vaccine**

Tetanus (lockjaw) causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over the body. It can lead to “locking” of the jaw so the victim cannot open his mouth or swallow. Tetanus leads to death in up to 2 cases out of 10. Tetanus enters the body through cuts, scratches, or wounds. The germ is present in the soil everywhere.

This vaccine is given as part of a combination vaccine with the vaccines against diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). One formulation (DTaP) is designed for children from 6 weeks to 7 years of age. The other (Tdap) is designed for children and adults age 11 years or older.