

## MMR Decision Aid - Comparing the risks - Measles

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### Common symptoms of measles

These are usually mild symptoms and include fever, loss of appetite, rash, diarrhoea, runny nose, cough and red painful eyes. Children who get measles usually have to spend about 5 days in bed and have to take 10 to 14 days off from school, if there is no serious complication.<sup>18</sup>

### Complications of measles

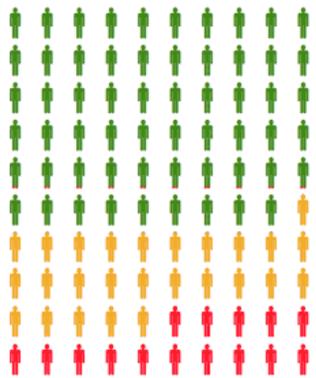
These are usually serious conditions and include ear infections, pneumonia, fits or convulsions, croup, inflammation of the brain (encephalitis), which could result in hospitalisation. A late complication of measles is subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE), which causes progressive brain damage and nearly always results in death.

The table below compares the potential problems caused by measles with the potential problems caused by the MMR vaccine.

**Green** - Common, usually mild symptoms that can be treated at home.

**Yellow** - Moderate complications that need medical attention but may not include hospitalisation.

**Red** - Serious complications that need urgent medical attention and could include hospitalisation.

Potential risks in a group of 100 children under 5 years of age who get measles	Potential risks in a group of 100 children who have the MMR vaccine
 <p>Most children will have the common and usually mild (<b>in green</b>) symptoms of measles e.g. fever, cough, runny nose, red, painful eyes, rash. Some may have more than one of these symptoms at the same time.</p>	 <p>Most will have common and usually mild (<b>in green</b>) symptoms of the MMR vaccine e.g. pain or swelling at the injection site, joint pain and stiffness. Some may have more than one of these symptoms at the same time.</p>
<p>26 in 100 may have moderate (<b>in yellow</b>) symptoms</p> <p>▶</p> <p>12 may have diarrhoea</p> <p>▶</p> <p>14 may get an ear infection</p>	<p>14 in 100 may have moderate (<b>in yellow</b>) symptoms</p> <p>▶</p> <p>4 may have high fever</p> <p>▶</p> <p>4 may be irritable</p> <p>▶</p> <p>1 may have swelling of salivary glands</p> <p>▶</p> <p>5 may have a non-infectious faint red rash</p>
<p>15 in 100 may have serious (<b>in red</b>) symptoms</p> <p>▶</p> <p>9 may get pneumonia</p>	

<p>▶</p> <p><b>5</b> may have measles croup</p> <p>▶</p> <p><b>1</b> may have fever-induced convulsion Some may be hospitalised for any of the above symptoms</p>	
<p><b>Rare Complications</b></p> <p><b>2 in 1,000</b> children may have inflammation of the brain (encephalitis). Encephalitis from any reason may result in children surviving with permanent brain damage or death.[7]</p>	<p><b>Rare Complications</b></p> <p>Uncertain; a maximum of one child may develop encephalitis.[19]</p>
<p><b>3 in 1,000</b> children develop thrombocytopenia(tendency for bruising or bleeding)[20]</p>	<p><b>26 in 1,000,000</b> children may have thrombocytopenia.[20]</p>
<p><b>1 in 100,000</b> children may get subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE), a late complication of measles, which causes progressive brain damage and nearly always results in death</p>	<p>No children will get subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE).[21]</p>

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