



# Town Pediatrics, PC



Patricia F. Rappaport, MD, FAAP  
Sandra J. Groeber, MD, FAAP  
Louise J. Chamberlain, MD, FAAP  
Stephanie S. Konkus, MD, FAAP  
Sheila B. Wetherell, FNP-C

## ADMINISTRATION OF VITAMIN K TO NEWBORNS

Welcome to Town Pediatrics! We are a pediatric practice that follows and abides by the guidelines and policies of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). As such we want to make clear our position to all our patients regarding the administration of vitamin K to the newborn patient. The positions of the AAP and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are clear. The use of a single dose of intramuscular vitamin K at birth prevents vitamin K deficiency bleeding (VKDB), a condition that can be fatal to an infant. Vitamin K injections have been routinely administered at birth since first recommended by the AAP in 1961, and there has been no causal association established between parenteral (injectable) vitamin K and childhood cancer.

There is no oral alternative approved for use in the United States. While oral vitamin K has been used in some other countries and may help prevent early onset vitamin K deficiency bleeding, there is no evidence that it prevents the late onset vitamin K deficiency bleeding. In fact, in countries allowing the use of oral vitamin K as a substitute for the injectable dose, there is actually data showing an increase in the rate of late VKDB. Oral vitamin K preparations available in the United States are not FDA approved for use in prevention of VKDB. For more information, please see the accompanying information sheet titled "Protect Your Baby from Bleeds – Talk to Your Healthcare Provider about Vitamin K," published by the CDC.

We hope this helps you in deciding whether our practice can meet your needs. Town Pediatrics hopes to have a long and healthy relationship with you and your child.

Best regards,

Patricia Rappaport, M.D.

Sandra Groeber, M.D.

Louise Chamberlain, M.D.

Stephanie S. Konkus, M.D.

Sheila Wetherell, FNP-C