Impact of pertussis

- Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a highly contagious disease that can be fatal for newborns or young infants.
- More than 75% of babies contract this disease from a family member or caregiver.
- To reduce the spread of pertussis to newborns and young infants, the SLVHD instituted a “Cocooning Project” to provide a ring of protection against pertussis.
Cocooning

- The Cocoon Strategy - Preventing Severe and Fatal Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in Infants Through Family Immunization
- The “cocoon strategy” aims to protect newborn infants from becoming infected with pertussis by administering Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) booster vaccines to mothers and family members of newborn infants.
- In this way, mothers and family members are protected from getting pertussis and passing it on to their young infants.

Why does pertussis pose such a threat to newborns?

- Newborns are not immune to pertussis
- Many are not adequately vaccinated for pertussis until after the first year of life
- According to the CDC, over 50,000 cases were reported in the United States in 2004 and 2005, the largest number since the 1950s.
- This increase is due to an epidemic of pertussis in adolescents and adults who have lost their immunity from their childhood vaccines and need a booster vaccine.
Impact to Infants

- Young infants have a higher rate of pertussis than any other age group and 87-100% of all deaths from pertussis occur in infants less than 6 months of age.
- Even when not fatal, two thirds of young infants with pertussis need to be hospitalized and they may have serious complications such as pneumonia, seizures and brain damage.

The Tdap Project

- Teen Mother and Child Program
- Components of the program
  - Education to medical staff
  - Education to mother and other family members
  - Use of the Ultrasound appointment
  - Wrist bracelets
  - Chart reviews
Additional Community Outreach

- Home visitation
- Media
- Brochures
- DVDs
- Using every visit as an opportunity to educate and vaccinate

Questions?

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