

The best risk-benefit analysis goes beyond scoring points for good or bad outcomes. It also considers the likelihood that the good or bad will happen and the intensity of each. When a mother considers a medical intervention, she should ask herself:

WHAT IF I DO NOTHING?

- **What is the chance this bad thing will happen?**
 - How bad can it get?
 - How often does it get this bad?
- **Are there any benefits to the bad thing happening?**

- **What are the benefits?**
 - Will the person taking the medicine avoid the disease?
 - If there is vaccine failure or breakthrough, will the disease symptoms be less?
 - Can this shot stop transmission to others and is that more important than what will happen to the person getting the shot?
- **What are the risks of the intervention?**
 - What are the potential side effects?
 - How likely is it that those side effects will happen?
 - How severe can those side effects be, both in intensity and duration?
 - Can the intervention increase severity of the natural infection?
 - How likely is it that will happen?
 - Can the intervention hurt others through shedding?
 - Can it actually be beneficial to get the disease?

WHAT HAPPENS IF I USE THIS MEDICAL INTERVENTION?