

Vaccination for Hepatitis A



National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse

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Diseases

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Candidates for Hepatitis A Vaccination

Routine vaccination

- Children living in areas with high incidence rates of hepatitis A (above the national average). Check with your health department to see if this applies to your area.

High-risk populations

- Travelers to developing countries with high rates of hepatitis A, including Mexico.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Users of illegal drugs.
- People who work with hepatitis A virus in research settings.
- People who work with infected nonhuman primates.
- Recipients of clotting factor concentrates.
- People with chronic liver disease (because of risk of fulminant hepatitis A).

Doses and Schedules: Hepatitis A

HAVRIX*			
Age	# of Doses	Schedule	Dose
Children age 2 to 18 years	2	0 and 6 to 12 months	720 ELISA units (0.5 mL)
Adults 18 years and older	2	0 and 6 to 12 months	1440 ELISA units (1.0 mL)

* Inactivated vaccine. Manufactured by SmithKline Beecham Biologicals.

VAQTA*			
Age	# of Doses	Schedule	Dose
Children age 2 to 17 years	2	0 and 6 to 18 months	25 units (0.5 mL)
Adults 17 years and older	2	0 and 6 months	50 units (1.0 mL)

* Inactivated vaccine. Manufactured by Merck & Company, Inc.

Postexposure prophylaxis

Immune globulin is more than 85 percent effective in preventing hepatitis A virus infection when given within 2 weeks of exposure to the hepatitis A virus. The dose is 0.02 mL/kg injected into the gluteal muscle in adults or the anterolateral thigh muscle in children under 2 years. Concurrent hepatitis A vaccination may also be appropriate in people 2 years and older.

Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1999). Prevention of hepatitis A through active or passive immunization: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 48(RR-12).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1991). Hepatitis B virus: a comprehensive strategy for eliminating transmission in the United States through universal childhood vaccination: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 40(RR-13).



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OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes
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Vaccination for Hepatitis B

National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse

Candidates for Hepatitis B Vaccination

Routine vaccination

- All infants, children, and adolescents.

High-risk populations

- People with multiple sex partners and those who have been recently diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease.
- Sex partners and household contacts of HBV carriers.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Household contacts of adoptees from countries with high rates of hepatitis B.
- Injection drug users.
- Travelers to countries with high rates of hepatitis B (staying longer than 6 months).
- People with occupational exposure to blood.
- Clients and staff in institutions for the developmentally disabled.
- Patients with chronic kidney failure (including those on chronic hemodialysis).
- Patients receiving clotting factor concentrates.
- Inmates of long-term correctional facilities.

Doses and Schedules: Hepatitis B

AGE	# OF DOSES	SCHEDULE	DOSE	
			Recombivax HB*	Energix-B**
Infants with HBsAg-negative mother	3	0 to 2, 1 to 4, and 6 to 18 months	5.0 µg (0.5 mL)	10 µg (0.5 mL)
Infants with HBsAg-positive mother	3	Hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and vaccination within 12 hours of birth, then vaccine at 1 to 2 and 6 months	5.0 µg (0.5 mL)	10 µg (0.5 mL)
Children and adolescents age 1 to 19 years	3	0, 1 to 2, and 4 to 6 months	5.0 µg (0.5 mL)	10 µg (0.5 mL)
Adolescents 11 to 15 years	2	0 and 4 to 6 months	10 µg (1.0 mL)	N/A
Adults 20 years and older	3	0, 1 to 2, and 4 to 6 months	10 µg (1.0 mL)	20 µg (1.0 mL)
Immunocompromised adults	3	0, 1, and 6 months	40 µg (1.0 mL)	N/A
	4	0, 1, 2, and 6 months	N/A	40 µg (2.0 mL)

Note: There should be at least 1 month between the first and second doses, at least 2 months between the second and third doses, and at least 4 months between the first and third doses. For infants, the third dose should not be given before 6 months of age.

* Recombinant vaccine. Manufactured by Merck & Company, Inc.

** Recombinant vaccine. Manufactured by SmithKline Beecham Biologicals.

Postexposure prophylaxis

Prophylactic treatment for exposure to hepatitis B virus involves either hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG), hepatitis B vaccine, or a combination of both. The HBIG dose equals 0.06 mL/kg. Efficacy ranges from 70 to 95 percent for different types of exposure.

EXPOSURE	TREATMENT
Perinatal	1 dose of HBIG given with the first hepatitis B vaccine dose.
Percutaneous or permucosal	HBIG and vaccination depending on vaccination and exposure status.
Sexual	HBIG with or without vaccination for exposure to acute hepatitis B; vaccination alone for chronic exposure.
Household contact	HBIG with vaccination for acute hepatitis B in infants under age 12 months; vaccination alone for chronic.