

Vaccination for Hepatitis A

National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse



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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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