

Use of Single-Antigen and Combination Hepatitis A Vaccines in Adults

Persons at Increased Risk for Hepatitis A (hep A) or Severe Outcomes of Infection

- Men who have sex with men
- Use of injectable or non-injectable illegal drugs
- Having clotting factor disorders
- Travel to or working in countries with a high or intermediate risk of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection
- An occupational risk (those who work with hep A-infected primates or HAV in a laboratory setting)
- Susceptible persons who have chronic liver disease, including those awaiting a liver transplant
- Persons living with someone who is infected with HAV

Points to Consider

- Two adult formulations are available: Havrix® and Vaqta®
- Routinely administered IM, 2 doses (1 mL) at 0 and 6-12 months
- HAV infection produces life-long immunity so there is no benefit to vaccination
- Pre-vaccination serologic testing will likely be cost-effective in adults who were either born in or lived for extensive periods in geographic areas with high levels of HAV (e.g., Central and South America, Africa, Asia), those in certain populations (e.g., Native Americans, Alaska, Natives, Hispanics) and adults over 40 years
- Post-vaccination testing is not indicated because of the high rate of vaccine response

Travel

- Healthy persons (regardless of their scheduled dates for departure): Give single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine (age-appropriate dose) to any susceptible person who is traveling to or working in countries with increased HAV risk
- Use of single-antigen hepatitis A is recommended for pre-exposure protection. No data is available for use of other hepatitis A formulations (e.g. Twinrix®)
- For further travel guidelines, refer to “Update: Prevention of Hepatitis A After Exposure and in International Travelers”, MMWR October 18, 2007, www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm#hepa

Contraindications and Precautions to Vaccination

- Persons with a history of a severe allergic reaction:
 - following a prior dose of hep A vaccine
 - to a vaccine component or hypersensitivity to alum or in the case of Havrix®, to the preservative 2-phenoxyethanol
- Persons with moderate to severe illness

Use of Twinrix®: Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B Combination Vaccine

- Each dose contains a pediatric dose of hepatitis A and an adult dose of hepatitis B
- Administer a 3-dose series, IM, at 0, 1, and 6 months to persons 18 years and older
- Minimum intervals between doses are: dose 1 & 2 = 4 wks; dose 2 & 3 = 5 mo; dose 1 & 3 = 6 mo

Completing hepatitis A and hepatitis B series with single-antigen hep A, hep B and/or Twinrix
Any combination of 3 doses of adult hepatitis B or 3 doses of Twinrix = a complete series of hepatitis B
1 dose of Twinrix + 2 doses of adult hepatitis A = a complete series of hepatitis A
2 doses of Twinrix + 1 dose of adult hepatitis A = a complete series of hepatitis A