Hepatitis A Immunoglobulin (Ig)

Immunization,
a good protection

Hepatitis A immunoglobulin (Ig) consists of antibodies extracted from the blood of numerous donors. It protects against hepatitis A and its complications. Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by a virus. There is also a hepatitis A vaccine that can be given at the same time as the immunoglobulin. Immunoglobulin only protects for a few months while the vaccine protects for many years.

Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Hepatitis A	• Hepatitis A is transmitted by contact with water or food contaminated with the stools of a person infected with hepatitis A. *Young infected children often do not have symptoms but can transmit hepatitis A to their close contacts.*	• Fever • Fatigue • Loss of appetite • Jaundice • Headache	• Serious liver damage • Fatigue lasting several weeks • Death (0.1% to 0.3% of cases)

Hepatitis A Ig

Ig is one way of protection against hepatitis A and its complications. Ig is recommended for certain people in close contact with someone with hepatitis A.

Symptoms after immunization

Some symptoms may be caused by the Hepatitis A Ig (e.g. redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the Ig (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

Hepatitis A Ig is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Possible reactions to Ig	What to do
• Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site • Fever, facial redness, headache, chills or nausea	• Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site. • Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed. • See a doctor if symptoms are severe.

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after immunization with Ig because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the immunization. The person giving the Ig will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the Ig, or Info-Santé 8-1-1 or your doctor.