Hepatitis B Vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against hepatitis B and its complications. Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by a virus (the hepatitis B virus).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Transmission</th>
<th>Signs and symptoms</th>
<th>Possible complications</th>
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</table>
| Hepatitis B   | Hepatitis B is transmitted by contact between a mucous membrane (e.g. the mouth, the genital organs) or a wound and the blood, sperm or vaginal secretions of an infected person. | Fever, Abdominal pain, Jaundice, Vomiting, Diarrhea | • Serious liver damage  
• A chronic liver infection (10% of adults and up to 90% of babies)  
• Cirrhosis  
• Cancer of the liver  
• Death (1%) of cases |

The vaccine
Vaccination is the best protection against hepatitis B and its complications. The vaccine is indicated for anyone who wants to reduce their risk of catching hepatitis B. Several doses of vaccine are required to ensure the best possible protection.

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

Hepatitis B vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Possible reactions to the vaccine</th>
<th>What to do</th>
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| Often (less than 10% of people) | Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site  
Headache, digestive problems, dizziness, fatigue | • 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 vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

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