

Hepatitis B Immunoglobulin (HBIG)

Vaccination,
the best protection

April 2018

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

Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Hepatitis B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hepatitis B is transmitted by contact between a mucus membrane (e.g. the mouth, the genital organs) or a wound and the blood, sperm, or vaginal secretions of an infected person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FeverAbdominal painJaundiceVomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Serious liver damageA chronic liver infection (10% of adults and up to 90% of babies)CirrhosisCancer of the liverDeath (1% of cases)

HBIG

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

Symptoms after immunization

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

HBIG is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Possible reactions to HBIG	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pain and itching at the injection siteSwelling of the face	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 HBIG because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the immunization. The person giving the HBIG will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

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