

Hepatitis A Vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

June 2023

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

Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Hepatitis A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hepatitis A is transmitted by contact with water or food contaminated by the stools of a person infected with hepatitis A. <i>Infected young children often do not have symptoms but can transmit hepatitis A to their close contacts.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FeverFatigueLoss of appetiteJaundiceHeadache	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Serious liver damageFatigue lasting several weeksDeath (0.1% to 0.3% of cases and up to 12% in hospitalised persons over 60 years old)

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against hepatitis A and its complications. The vaccine is indicated for anyone who wants to reduce their risk of catching hepatitis A. Several doses of vaccine may be required to ensure the best possible protection. For children born before June 1, 2019, this vaccine is administered in Grade 4.

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 A vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long.

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
In most cases (more than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pain at the injection site	<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.
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Redness and swelling at the injection siteHeadache, muscle soreness, fatigueIrritability in children aged 12 to 23 months	
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Skin rash in children aged 12 to 23 monthsFever, gastro-intestinal upsets, respiratory symptoms	

Note: Reactions at the injection site are less common among children

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 811 or your doctor.