

Hepatitis A and B Vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

June 2023

Vaccination is the best protection against hepatitis A and B and their complications. Hepatitis A and B are liver infections caused by two different viruses: the hepatitis A virus and the hepatitis B virus.

Diseases	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)
Hepatitis B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.	<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)

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against hepatitis A and B and their complications. The vaccine is indicated for anyone who wants to reduce their risk of catching hepatitis A and hepatitis B. Several doses of vaccine are required to ensure the best possible protection. Immunization schedule includes administration of 1 dose at the age of 18 months.

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

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pain, redness and swelling 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.
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FeverHeadache, discomfort, fatigue, nausea, vomiting	

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.