

Hepatitis B Vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

June 2024

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).

Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
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 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. Since September 2020, immunization schedule includes administration of 1 dose of this vaccine in Secondary 3.

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.

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pain, redness and swelling at the injection siteHeadache, digestive problems, dizziness, fatigue	<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 health professional 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 811 or a health professional.