

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

HEPATITIS A

VACCINES TO PREVENT HEPATITIS A

The purpose of this resolution is to revise the previous resolution to incorporate the use of a 3 dose combination hepatitis A/hepatitis B vaccine for use in persons 18 years.

VFC resolution 2/99-4 is repealed and replaced by the following:

Eligible Groups

All persons 2 years through 18 years of age who meet one of the following conditions*:

Persons traveling to countries that have high or intermediate endemicity of infection: All susceptible children traveling to countries that have high or intermediate hepatitis A virus endemicity should be vaccinated before departure.

Children living in communities with high rates of hepatitis A virus infection and periodic outbreaks of hepatitis A: Routine vaccination of young children, and accelerated implementation of catch-up vaccination of older children, should be used to prevent or control ongoing outbreaks in these communities. Included in these communities are children of migrant workers.

Men who have sex with men: Sexually active homosexual and bisexual adolescents should be vaccinated.

* Twinrix is only indicated for persons 18 years and older, and only persons 18 years of age are eligible to receive Twinrix® thru the VFC program

Drug users: Vaccination is recommended for persons who are injecting drug users and persons who use non-injection street drugs if local epidemiologic data indicate that such groups are at risk of hepatitis A virus infection.

Persons with clotting factor disorders: Susceptible persons who receive clotting factor concentrates, especially solvent detergent treated preparations, should be vaccinated.

Persons with chronic liver disease: Susceptible persons with chronic liver disease, including persons awaiting or having undergone liver transplantation should be vaccinated.

Persons in communities with hepatitis A outbreaks: Hepatitis A vaccination can be used for the control of outbreaks of hepatitis A in communities.

Persons in States and communities or counties where the average annual hepatitis A rate during 1987-1997 was at least 10/100,000 population.

Recommended Hepatitis A Vaccine Schedule

Vaccine†	Age	Number Doses	Schedule*
HAVRIX® (Pediatric formulation)	2-18 yrs.	2	0, 6-12 months
VAQTA® (Pediatric formulation)	2-18 yrs.	2	0, 6-18 months
TWINRIX® (Adult formulation)	18 yrs	3	0, 1, 6 months

† Use of brand names is not meant to preclude the use of other hepatitis A vaccines.

* 0 months represents timing of the initial dose; subsequent numbers represent months after the initial dose.

Catch-Up Vaccination

In high rate communities, the ACIP recommends catch-up vaccination of previously unvaccinated older children to prevent epidemics of hepatitis A. The highest priority should be given to vaccination of children prior to school entry, followed by vaccination of school-aged children. Catch-up vaccination should be accomplished within 5 years of initiation of routine childhood vaccination programs. The upper age for catch-up vaccination should be determined using the age-specific rates of hepatitis A or seroprevalence data if available. Vaccination is not warranted in age groups with the lowest rates of disease because the prevalence of immunity is high (e.g.,

Dosage Intervals

Vaccine	Minimum age for first dose	Minimum interval from dose 1 to 2	Minimum interval from dose 2 to 3	Minimum interval from dose 1 to 3
HAVRIX® (Pediatric formulation)	2 years	6 months	n/a	n/a
VAQTA® (Pediatric formulation)	2 years	6 months	n/a	n/a
TWINRIX® (Adult formulation)	18 years	1 month	5 months	6 months

Recommended Dosages

Refer to product package inserts.

Contraindications and Precautions

The following conditions are contraindications to administration of Hepatitis A vaccine:

- Allergy to vaccine components**
Anaphylactic reaction to the vaccine or a constituent of the vaccine.
- Acute, moderate or severe illnesses with or without fever**
- Administration of TWINRIX® vaccine to persons younger than 18 years of age**
Combined hepatitis A/hepatitis B vaccine is not licensed for use in persons younger than 18 years of age

The following condition is a precaution to the administration of Hepatitis A vaccine:

1. Pregnancy

The safety of hepatitis A vaccination during pregnancy has not been determined; however, because hepatitis A vaccine is produced from inactivated HAV, the theoretical risk to the developing fetus is expected to be low. The risk associated with vaccination should be weighed against the risk for hepatitis A in women who may be at high risk for exposure to HAV.

Adopted and Effective: 10-17-2001

Note: Vaccines approved by the ACIP for inclusion in the VFC program are not available for use in the program until ACIP recommendations have been published and after the CDC has established a contract for the purchase of the vaccines.