

Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B Vaccines: Be Sure Your Patients Get the Correct Dose

Hepatitis A vaccines: Recommended dosages and schedules

VACCINE	AGE GROUP	VOLUME	# DOSES	DOSING INTERVALS
Havrix (GlaxoSmithKline)	1 through 18 yrs	0.5 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos
	19 yrs and older	1.0 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos
Vaqt (Merck)	1 through 18 yrs	0.5 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos
	19 yrs and older	1.0 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos

Answer to a commonly asked question:

It is not necessary to restart the series of hepatitis B or hepatitis A vaccines because of an extended interval between doses.

Hepatitis B vaccines: Recommended dosages and schedules

VACCINE	AGE GROUP	VOLUME	# DOSES	SCHEDULES/DOSING INTERVALS
Engerix-B (GlaxoSmithKline)	0 through 19 yrs	0.5 mL	3	Age: birth (0)*, 1–2 mos, 4 mos [†] , 6–18 mos For older children who did not start HepB series at birth: 0, 1–2, 4–6 mos [‡]
	20 yrs and older	1.0 mL [§]	3	0, 1–2, 4–6 mos [‡]
Recombivax HB (Merck)	0 through 19 yrs	0.5 mL	3	Age: birth (0)*, 1–2 mos, 4 mos [†] , 6–18 mos For older children who did not start HepB series at birth: 0, 1–2, 4–6 mos [‡]
	11 through 15 yrs	1.0 mL	2	0, 4–6 mos
	20 yrs and older	1.0 mL [§]	3	0, 1–2, 4–6 mos [‡]

* Birth dose administered prior to discharge from the facility

[†] The 4-month HepB dose may not be needed depending on the brand of vaccine used.

[‡] There are minimum intervals between the doses of hepatitis B vaccine. There must be at least 4 weeks between doses #1 and #2, at least 8 weeks between doses #2 and #3, and at least 16 weeks between doses #1 and #3. The final dose in the infant series should not be given earlier than 24 weeks of age.

[§] For adult dialysis patients, the Engerix-B dose required is 2.0 mL (use the adult formulation) on a schedule of 0, 1, 2, and 6 months. For Recombivax HB, a special formulation for dialysis patients is available. The dose for the dialysis formulation is 1.0 mL and it is given on a schedule of 0, 1, and 6 months.

** When using HepB at birth and 3 doses of Pediarix, you will be administering 4 doses of HepB which is recommended by ACIP.

Combination vaccines: Recommended dosages and schedules

VACCINE	AGE GROUP	VOLUME	# DOSES	SCHEDULES/DOSING INTERVALS
Pediarix DTaP+HepB+IPV (GlaxoSmithKline)	6 wks through 6 yrs	0.5 mL	3	For infants: At birth use monovalent hepatitis B vaccine, then Pediarix at age 2 mos, 4 mos, 6 mos**
Twinrix HepA+HepB (GlaxoSmithKline)	18 yrs and older	1.0 mL	3	0, 1, 6 mos
		1.0 mL	4	0, 7, 21–30 days, 12 mos

Sources for all tables

■ Prevention of Hepatitis A Through Active or Passive Immunization: Recommendations of the ACIP, *MMWR*, May 19, 2006, Vol. 55 (RR-07).

■ A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the ACIP, Part I: Immunization of Infants, Children and Adolescents, *MMWR*, December 2005, Vol. 54 (RR-16).

■ A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the ACIP, Part II: Immunization of Adults, *MMWR*, December 2006, Vol. 55(RR-16).