

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

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.

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

† There are minimum intervals between the doses of Engerix-B and Recombivax HB 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. For Heplisav-B, use the standard dose (0.5 mL) and schedule (2 doses, 1 month apart).

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

Sources for all tables

- Prevention of Hepatitis A Through Active or Passive Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), *MMWR*, May 19, 2006, Vol. 55 (RR-07).
- Prevention of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the ACIP, *MMWR*, January 12, 2018, Vol. 67 (RR-1).
- Recommendations of the ACIP for Use of a Hepatitis B Vaccine with a Novel Adjuvant., *MMWR*, April 20, 2018;67(No 15):455–8.

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
Vaqa (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

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	For newborns, give dose #1 within 24 hrs of birth; then at age 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	For newborns, give dose #1 within 24 hrs of birth; then at age 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†
Heplisav-B (Dynavax)	18 yrs and older	0.5 mL‡	2	0, 1 mo

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 newborns, give monovalent hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hrs of birth; then give 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