

# Hepatitis A & B Vaccines

*Be sure your patient gets the correct dose!*

## Recommended dosages and schedules of hepatitis A vaccines

Vaccine	Age group	Dose	Volume	# Doses	Dosing interval
<b>Havrix</b> (GlaxoSmithKline)	1–18 yrs	720 ELISA Units	0.5 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos
	19 yrs & older	1440 ELISA Units	1.0 mL	2	0, 6–12 mos
<b>Vaqta</b> (Merck)	1–18 yrs	25 Units	0.5 mL	2	0, 6–18 mos
	19 yrs & older	50 Units	1.0 mL	2	0, 6–18 mos

## Recommended dosages and schedules of hepatitis B vaccines

Vaccine	Age group	Dose	Volume	# Doses	Schedule / Dosing interval
<b>Engerix-B</b> (GlaxoSmithKline)	0–19 yrs	10 µg	0.5 mL	3	Age: birth*, 1–4, 6–18 mos Dose intervals for older children: 0, 1–2, 4 mos <sup>†</sup>
	20 yrs & older	20 µg	1.0 mL	3	Dose interval: 0, 1, 6 mos <sup>†</sup>
<b>Recombivax HB</b> (Merck)	0–19 yrs	5 µg	0.5 mL	3	Age: birth*, 1–4, 6–18 mos Dose intervals for older children: 0, 1–2, 4 mos <sup>†</sup>
	11–15 yrs	10 µg	1.0 mL	2	Dose intervals: 0, 4–6 mos <sup>†</sup>
	20 yrs & older	10 µg	1.0 mL	3	Dose intervals: 0, 1, 6 mos <sup>†</sup>

**Note:** For adult dialysis patients, the Engerix-B dose required is 40 µg/2.0 mL (use the adult 20 µg/1.0 mL formulation) on a schedule of 0, 1, 2, and 6 months. For Recombivax HB, a special formulation for dialysis patients is available. The dose is 40 µg/1.0 mL and it is given on a schedule of 0, 1, and 6 months.

\*Birth dose administered prior to discharge from the newborn nursery.

<sup>†</sup>The schedule for administering hepatitis B vaccine is flexible and can vary.

## Combinations using hepatitis A and/or hepatitis B vaccines

Vaccine	Age group	Volume	# Doses	Schedule / Dosing interval
<b>Comvax<sup>‡</sup></b> Hib+HepB (Merck)	6 wks – 4 yrs	0.5 mL	3	Age: 2, 4, 12–15 mos
<b>Pediarix<sup>‡</sup></b> DTaP+HepB+IPV (GlaxoSmithKline)	6 wks – 6 yrs	0.5 mL	3	Age: 2, 4, 6 mos
<b>Twinrix</b> HepA+HepB (GlaxoSmithKline)	18 yrs & older	1.0 mL	3	Dose intervals: 0, 1, 6 mos
		1.0 mL	4	Dose intervals: 0, 7, 21–30 days, 12 mos.

<sup>‡</sup>Cannot be administered before age 6 weeks, but may be used to complete the hepatitis B vaccine series for all infants, including those of HBsAg+ mothers. Either Engerix-B or Recombivax HB should be used for the hepatitis B vaccine birth dose prior to hospital discharge.

### Sources

- Prevention of Hepatitis A Through Active or Passive Immunization: Recommendations of the ACIP, *MMWR*, May 19, 2006, Vol. 55(RR07)
- 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 23, 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 8, 2006, Vol. 55(RR-16)
- General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the ACIP, *MMWR*, December 1, 2006, Vol. 55(RR15)

**What hepatitis B vaccination question is asked over and over and over again?**

Robin, it's been a year since my patient had his first hepatitis B shot. Should I start the series over again?



Holy shot in the arm, Batman! How many times do I have to tell you? **You don't have to restart the series!** As with all other vaccines, you just continue from where you left off.



**Don't restart the series!**