

HEPATITIS A VACCINE

HEPATITIS A is an RNA virus that is transmitted by contact with infected people, water or food. Symptoms are similar to other hepatitises. Recovery usually takes 4-6 weeks. 15% of those affected have recurrences in the subsequent year. Hepatitis A does not become chronic. 25% of affected adults need hospitalization. Fatal liver necrosis is rare. 0.1-0.3% of all cases die, but 1.8% die when aged > 50 years and 12.5% if aged >60 years.

IMMUNIZATION RESPONSE to hepatitis A vaccine after the first dose is 88% on day 15 and 99% to 100% one month post vaccination. After the second booster dose 6-12 months later protection is lifelong .

IMMUNIZATION IS RECOMMENDED for travelers to countries where poor sanitation might lead to Hepatitis A infection or where oral –anal sexual relations with an infected person might occur. Two doses six to twelve months apart are recommended to ensure life-long protection.

CONTRAINDICATIONS to vaccination include anaphylactic reactions to a previous dose of the vaccine or the presence of any illness with a fever >38.5 degrees Celsius present.

ADVERSE REACTIONS are mild – usually injection site discomfort or tenderness in up to 50% of cases, a transient fever in up to 5%, muscle or joint ache in 10%, malaise, loss of appetite, weakness in up to 13% , nausea or vomiting in 6% or a headache in up to 16% of cases. Vaccine component allergy causes anaphylaxis rarely.

CONSENT

I have read the information above and understand the risks and benefits involved in receiving hepatitis A vaccine. I have had the opportunity to ask questions.

I agree to receive one or more doses of the recommended series of hepatitis A vaccine.

Name _____ Signature _____
Date _____ Witness _____