

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	Schedule
Havrix (Glaxo-SmithKline)	2–18 years	720 EI.U.*	0.5 ml	2	0, 6–12 mos.
	19 years and older	1440 EI.U.*	1.0 ml	2	0, 6–12 mos.
Vaqta (Merck & Co.)	2–18 years	25 U**	0.5 ml	2	0, 6–18 mos.
	19 years and older	50 U**	1.0 ml	2	0, 6–18 mos.

*EI.U. = Elisa Units **U = Units

Recommended dosages and schedules of hepatitis B vaccines

Vaccine	Age group	Dose	Volume	# Doses	Schedule*
Engerix-B (Glaxo-SmithKline)	0–19 years	10 μ g	0.5 ml	3	Infants: birth, 1–4, 6–18 mos. of age Alternative for older children: 0, 1-2, 4 mos.
	20 years & older	20 μ g	1.0 ml	3	0, 1, 6 mos.
Recombivax HB (Merck & Co.)	0–19 years	5 μ g	0.5 ml	3	Infants: birth, 1–4, 6–18 mos. of age Alternative for older children: 0, 1-2, 4 mos.
	11 thru 15 yrs.	10 μ g	1.0 ml	2	0, 4–6 mos.
	20 years & older	10 μ g	1.0 ml	3	0, 1, 6 mos.

*The schedule for hepatitis B vaccination is flexible and varies. Consult the ACIP statement on hepatitis B (11/91), AAP's 2003 Red Book, or the package insert for details.

Note: For adult dialysis patients, the Engerix-B dose required is 40 μ g/2.0ml (use the adult 20 μ g/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 μ g/1.0ml and it is given on a schedule of 0, 1, and 6 months.

Combinations using hepatitis A and/or hepatitis B vaccines

Vaccine	Age group	Antigens used	Volume	# Doses	Schedule
Comvax* (Merck & Co.)	6 weeks thru 4 yrs.	Recombivax HB (5 μ g) combined with PedvaxHib	0.5 ml	3	2, 4, 12–15 mos. of age
Pediarix* (Glaxo-SmithKline)	6 weeks thru 6 yrs.	Engerix-B (10 μ g), Infanrix (DTaP), and IPV	0.5 ml	3	2, 4, 6 mos. of age
Twinrix* (Glaxo-SmithKline)	18 years & older	Havrix (720 EI.U.) combined with Engerix-B (20 μ g)	1.0 ml	3	0, 1, 6 mos.

*Licensed combination vaccines may be used whenever any component of the combination is indicated and its other component(s) is/are not contraindicated. (CDC. Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule—United States. *MMWR* 2004; Vol. 53 [16])

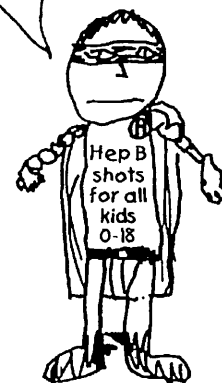
The use of licensed combination vaccines is preferred over separate injection of their equivalent component vaccines. ("Combination Vaccines for Childhood Immunization," *MMWR*, 1999; [RR-5] 2)

What hepatitis B question is asked over and 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!

Source: CDC. "Hepatitis B Virus: A Comprehensive Strategy for Eliminating Transmission in the United States Through Universal Childhood Vaccination: Recommendations of the ACIP" *MMWR* 1991; 40 (RR-13): 5.
www.immunize.org/catg.d/2081ab.pdf • Item #P2081 (9/04)