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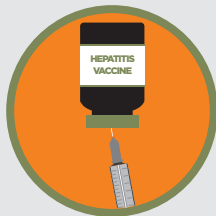
HEPATITIS B

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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ARE YOU SURE YOU USE THE RIGHT MEASURES TO
PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST HEPATITIS B?

GET INFORMED! GET VACCINATED! GET PROTECTED!



DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Hepatitis B

attacks the liver and can cause acute, sometimes life threatening illness.

• is the most common
• infection acquired in a
• hospital?

• Lifelong infection by
• the hepatitis B virus,
• if left untreated, can
• lead to liver cancer
• later in life?



AROUND THE WORLD

2 Billion people are affected by hepatitis B

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and, according to WHO (2014), every year about 780,000 people die from the effects of hepatitis B infection.

THE DISEASE IN SHORT

Hepatitis B is still very common in Europe and all over the world.

In Europe the majority of the reported cases refer to young adults 25-24 year old.

SYMPTOMS

Patients present symptoms usually 75-90 days after the exposure, some with very mild symptoms, some showing typical symptoms of liver infection and some going on to develop overwhelming liver infection. Jaundice (yellow color of the skin and eyes) is a typical symptom, although it is not always present. Patients with hepatitis B complain about dark urine, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain, joint pains.

TREATMENT

Currently no specific treatment exists to cure acute hepatitis B infection. Usually supportive therapy is needed. New antiviral agents are in use for chronic hepatitis B infections.

WHO NEEDS TO GET A HEPATITIS B VACCINE?

Healthcare workers who come in contact with patients, as they are at high risk for hepatitis B due to their occupation.

Anyone with a **family member** who is a carrier of hepatitis B.

Other high risk groups include Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), IV drug users (IVDUs), patients in dialysis, persons employed in prisons, psychiatric or long-term care facilities for persons with special needs.

Travelers to countries endemic for hepatitis B (e.g. South-East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Amazon Basin, parts of the Middle East, the central Asian Republics and some parts of Eastern Europe).

Any adult who has no immunity, is recommended to receive hepatitis B vaccination.

WHEN AND HOW CAN I GET VACCINATED AGAINST HEPATITIS B?

HEPATITIS VACCINATION

The hepatitis B vaccine contains genetic material of the virus and should be administered with an injection in the muscle, in a 3-dose schedule at 0-1-6 months.

One to two months after the 3 doses are completed, it is recommended for HCWs to get tested in order to establish that they have sufficient protective antibodies.

Antibody protection lasts >20 years, probably more, therefore no boosters are needed.

After an occupational exposure, such as a needle stick, HCWs need to be tested for protective antibodies. Some, or the ones who are not vaccinated, may need to receive ready antibodies and a vaccine dose, as soon as possible.



EFFECTIVENESS OF HEPATITIS B VACCINE



is 50% effective
in preventing
hepatitis B



are 75-80%
effective in
preventing
hepatitis B



are 95% effective
in preventing
hepatitis B

COMPLICATIONS FROM HEPATITIS B

- Lifelong hepatitis B infection (1 in 20, up to 1 in 10 adult patients), which may lead to
 - Cirrhosis (1 in 6 and up to 1 in 3 patients with lifelong infection with Hep B)
 - Liver cancer (up to 1 in 4 patients, following of lifelong hepatitis B infection, if left untreated)
- Overwhelming liver infection leading to death of liver cells (1-6/1,000 acute infections)
 - Death (2 out of 3 patients with overwhelming infection)

HEPATITIS B VACCINE BENEFITS & POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Three doses of the vaccine protect 95 out of 100 vaccinated persons from Hepatitis B.

Possible side effects include:

Mild (most frequent)

- Redness, swelling or pain at the site of the injection (usually 1 in 30 doses, but may be up to 1 in 3 doses)
- Low grade fever (1-6/100 doses)
- Headache

Moderate (rare, <1,000 doses)

- Fatigue

Severe (very rare, <10,000 doses)

- Acute severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) (1/600,000 doses)

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

1. BZgA, Germany: www.impfen-info.de
2. ECDC- Communication Toolkit on Immunisation: ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/immunisation/Pages/Communication-toolkit.aspx
3. WHO Europe: Vaccines and immunization, www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/vaccines-and-immunization
4. NIH, USA: www.vaccines.gov
5. Immunization Action Coalition, USA: www.immunize.org
6. National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance, Australia: www.ncirs.edu.au



HProImmune
Promotion of Immunization for Health Professionals in Europe
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Disclaimer: The consortium partners declare no relevant conflict of interest with direct bearing on the subject matter of the HproImmune project. This pertains to relationships with pharmaceutical companies, biomedical device manufacturers and other companies with relation to vaccines.



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