



Hepatitis A & B Vaccine(Twinrix®)

What is Twinrix?

Twinrix is a vaccine that provides really good protection against both **hepatitis A and hepatitis B**.

What is hepatitis A?

- Hepatitis A is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus.
- It is spread by eating or drinking food or water contaminated with human feces.
- Symptoms can include lack of appetite, nausea, tiredness, fever and jaundice.
- About 1 out of 4 people with hepatitis A require hospitalization.
- Less than 1 out of 1000 people with hepatitis A die.

What is hepatitis B?

- Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver caused by hepatitis B virus.
- It is spread by contact with contaminated blood, saliva, semen and vaginal fluids.
- About 1-2 out of 100 people with acute hepatitis B will die.
- Some infected people become chronic carriers (less than 10 out of 100 adults; 25-50 out of 100 young children, 90-95 out of 100 infants).
- About 15-25 out of 100 chronic carriers will die from liver cancer or cirrhosis.
- Chronic infection may lead to liver cancer and/or death.

What does Hepatitis A & B vaccine contain?

- Hepatitis A and B vaccine contains neomycin, formaldehyde, aluminum salts, polysorbate 20, thimerosal, 2-phenoxyethanol and yeast.
- The connection between the needle and the syringe (in the pre-filled syringe) contains latex.

Who should receive the vaccine?

- International travelers, over the age of 1 year, to countries where hepatitis A and B are common, and who:
 - travel frequently
 - take extended trips
 - are aid workers
 - are health care workers
 - are in military service
 - are likely to be sexually active
 - require medical care or blood transfusions
 - have extensive contact with local people or
 - cannot avoid unsafe water or food
- Hemophiliacs
- People who have HIV
- People with chronic liver disease
- People with a lifestyle or occupational risk
- Transplant recipients/candidates
- People who have hepatitis C

Who should not receive the vaccine?

- Infants under one year of age
- People with moderate to severe illness may have to delay immunization
- Anyone who has had a life-threatening allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine

How effective is the vaccine?

- 100% of people can expect to be protected from hepatitis A after series complete.
- 97-99 out of 100 people can expect to be protected from hepatitis B. (note: the older you are when immunized, the less effective the vaccine is)

When should the vaccine be given?

- Twinrix vaccine is given in 3 doses:
 - Dose 1 – on day 0;
 - Dose 2 – 4 weeks later;
 - Dose 3 – 6 months after Dose #1.
- A rapid dosing schedule is available for those leaving in less than 4 weeks, with the first 3 doses being given before departure:
 - Dose 1 – on day 0;
 - Dose 2 – on day 7;
 - Dose 3 – on day 21;
 - Dose 4 – 12 months after Dose 1.
 Routine boosters in healthy individuals are not recommended.

Note: With the regular schedule, after only 2 doses of the vaccine:

- 97-99 out of 100 people can expect to be protected from hepatitis A.
- 70-80 out of 100 people can expect to be protected from hepatitis B

How long does protection last?

- At least 20 years for Hepatitis A and at least 15 years for Hepatitis B.
- Recent studies suggest recipients will enjoy life time protection once series complete

What Are The Possible Side Effects?

Most people have no side effects.

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| Common: | ♦ Pain, swelling and redness where the needle went in. |
| Not Common: | ♦ Headache, feeling tired, fever, muscle aches, feeling sick to your stomach and throwing up. |
| Very Rare: | <p>Go to a hospital emergency room if you have these symptoms:</p> ♦ A very bad allergic reaction (itchy hives, swelling of the lips, face, tongue, legs and arms). |

Your immunization information will be recorded in a computerized system known as the Saskatchewan Immunization Management Systems (SIMS). Information collected in SIMS may be used to:

- *Manage immunization records*
- *Notify you if you or your child needs an immunization*
- *And monitor how well vaccines work in preventing vaccine preventable diseases.*

Your immunization records may also be shared with health care professionals in order to provide public health services; assist with diagnosis and treatment; and to control the spread of vaccine preventable diseases.

Always report any serious reactions to your doctor or public health nurse.

For more information call: 306-765-6506

