



QUESTIONS

Q & A

FOR PARENTS ANSWERS

ACVIP : 2020 - 2021

## HEPATITIS A VACCINES

### What are the diseases caused by Hepatitis A ?

- ✦ Hepatitis A virus causes infection of the liver, which may cause jaundice. An individual can get this infection through water or contaminated food or by close contact with a person infected with Hepatitis A.
- ✦ Majority of children below 5 years of age will not have any symptoms when infected with this virus.
- ✦ Older children may have mild symptoms like weakness, loss of appetite, fever, nausea, vomiting, pain in abdomen, dark yellow color urine and jaundice (yellowish discoloration of eyes, and skin).
- ✦ Rarely, hepatitis A infection can lead to liver failure and death. Older children and adults have more severe disease.
- ✦ Till few years back, more than 90% of children acquired Hepatitis A infection by 10 years of age. With improvements in hygiene and sanitation, children become more susceptible to infections at a later age, when the infection causes more severe disease, with some rare complications.
- ✦ Apart from maintaining good hygiene and sanitation, vaccination of susceptible children and adults is the most effective way to prevent this disease.

### What are the vaccines available against Hepatitis A and the schedules?

- ✦ Two types of vaccines are available:
  1. Inactivated (killed) vaccine
  2. Live vaccine, which consists of the weakened Hepatitis A virus..
- ✦ Minimum age of administration of this vaccine is 12 months.
- ✦ The inactivated vaccine is administered in a two-dose schedule with the second dose administered at least 6 months after the first dose.
- ✦ The live, weakened vaccine, is administered as a single dose after the age of 12 months.

### Is it a safe vaccine?

Adverse reactions are minor and may include local pain and swelling and low grade fever.

### Who should receive this vaccine?

All children > 12 months of age should receive this vaccine.

### Who should not receive this vaccine?

Any child who has had a life-threatening allergic reaction after a previous dose of hepatitis A vaccine, or has a severe allergy to any component of this vaccine. The live, weakened vaccine should not be given to persons with weak immune system.

**For more information, please contact your doctor.**

