



Hepatitis A Post-Exposure Prophylaxis: Guidance For Healthcare Providers

Postexposure prophylaxis (PEP)

All nonimmune people who are exposed to HAV and have not been previously infected or vaccinated should receive PEP **within 14 days after the date of last exposure**. PEP should be given as soon as possible during the appropriate time window. PEP consists of monovalent hepatitis A vaccine (VAQTA® or HAVRIX®) and/or immune globulin.

PEP recommendations

TABLE 1. Recommendations for postexposure prophylaxis by age group and risk category

Age Group	Risk Category/Health Status	Hepatitis A Vaccine ²	Immune Globulin
Postexposure prophylaxis			
<12 months	Healthy	No	0.1mL/kg ³
12 mos-40yrs	Healthy	1 dose	None
>40 years	Healthy	1 dose	0.1 mL/kg ³
≥ 12 months	Immunocompromised/CLD ¹	1 dose	0.1 mL/kg ³
≥ 12 months	Vaccine contraindicated	No	0.1 mL/kg ³

¹CLD: Chronic liver disease

²Monovalent (VAQTA®/HAVRIX®)

³In July 2017, the recommended dose for IG (GamaSTAN® S/D) for HAV pre- and post- exposure prophylaxis was increased by the manufacturer due to declining HAV antibody levels in the U.S. blood supply. IG (GamaSTAN® S/D) is available in 2mL and 10mL single use vials. One source of IG is FFF Enterprises, which can be reached 24/7 at: 1-800-843-7477.

- Vaccine should be given in addition to IG to potentially provide longer-term protection for immunosuppressed people. Clinical guidance should be obtained if patient's immune status is unclear.
- People receiving both vaccine and IG for PEP may receive them simultaneously, or they may receive whichever product is available first and the second product when it is available, providing it is administered within the 14-day PEP window. Vaccine and IG should be administered at anatomically distant sites (such as different limbs).
- HAV vaccine may be administered simultaneously with other routine and travel vaccines.
- The efficacy of combined HAV/HBV vaccine (Twinrix®) for PEP has not been studied and it is not recommended for PEP.

Definition of Hepatitis A immunity

People are considered immune if they:

- have received 2 doses of hepatitis A virus (HAV) vaccine; or
- are Immunoglobulin G (IgG) anti-HAV positive or total anti-HAV positive; or
- have a history of Immunoglobulin M (IgM) positivity during or up to four months after clinically compatible illness.

Pre- or post- vaccination testing is not indicated. Most adults will be protected within 2-4 weeks after one dose of vaccine.

Exposed susceptible pregnant women

Pregnant women who become infected with hepatitis A have an increased risk of gestational complications and preterm labor. Pregnant women should receive PEP for the same indications as nonpregnant women. It may be reasonable to offer IG in addition to vaccine for PEP, particularly if the woman is a household or sexual contact of a case. There has been no observed increase in maternal or infant adverse events after hepatitis A vaccination or IG administration in pregnancy. Because HAV vaccine is produced from inactivated HAV, the risk to the fetus is low.

Incompletely immunized people

Most people have protective levels of antibody after one dose of HAV vaccine. People who have had one prior dose of vaccine may receive their second dose if it has been at least 6 months since their first dose.

People exposed to HAV >2 weeks prior to consult

The efficacy of PEP when given more than 2 weeks after exposure is unknown. IG is not recommended more than 2 weeks after exposure, but vaccine may be given to susceptible people at any time to protect against future exposures.

HAV vaccine contraindications and precautions

- HAV vaccine should not be administered to people with a history of a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of HAV vaccine or vaccine component.
- Because HAV vaccine is inactivated, no special precautions need to be taken when vaccinating immunocompromised persons.

For more information about HAV PEP

See [2020 ACIP recommendations](#) on the use of hepatitis A vaccine for postexposure prophylaxis and preexposure prophylaxis for international travel.

For more information about IG

GamaSTAN® S/D is the only U.S. IG product. More information can be found on the [GamaSTAN® S/D product guide](#).
