



Hepatitis A vaccine

What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a serious liver infection caused by Hepatitis A virus. Illness can last from few weeks to several months. There is no specific treatment for Hepatitis A. It can sometimes cause liver failure and death.

How does Hepatitis A most commonly spread?

Hepatitis A is mainly a water-borne disease; thus it commonly spreads by consuming Hepatitis A contaminated food or water.

What is the difference between Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis A is a water borne, commoner disease while Hepatitis B is a serious disease transmitted from mother to baby, from contaminated blood, injections or from sexual activity in adulthood. Hepatitis B vaccine is usually part of Hexavalent vaccine.

How can Hepatitis A be prevented?

Drinking clean water, eating cooked food and washing hands before eating food and after using the toilet are important for preventing Hepatitis; but these are alone not sufficient to provide reliable protection. Vaccination against Hepatitis A is the best way to prevent Hepatitis A.

How effective is Hepatitis A vaccine?

Hepatitis A vaccine is very effective. Protective efficacy is around 95% after 1st dose and 99% after 2nd dose.

What is the duration of protection after Hepatitis A vaccine?

The duration of protection after Hepatitis A vaccine is estimated to be around 45 years.

How many doses of Hepatitis A vaccine are required?

2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine injections are required to be given 6 months apart after first birthday. These injections are usually painless with minimal side effects.

(Edited by Dr. Sanket Kale)