
HEPATITIS A VACCINATION

MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE TREATMENT GUIDELINES

FEBRUARY 2005

Hepatitis A is generally an acute, self-limiting infection of the liver by an enterically transmitted picornavirus, hepatitis A virus (HAV). Infection may be asymptomatic or result in acute hepatitis. The range of incubation is between 2-7 weeks with a mean of about 4 weeks.

The most important means of transmission is from person to person via the faecal-oral route. Groups at increased risk of infection are patients and staff of institutions for the intellectually handicapped, staff and children attending daycare centres, homosexual men who engage in anal-oral contact, intravenous drug users and travellers from low risk to endemic areas.

Hepatitis A vaccine is available at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre for clients who are:

- HIV positive.
- Hepatitis B carriers.
- Hepatitis C positive.
- "Male to Male" sex workers.
- "Street" sex workers.
- "Street" based intravenous drug users.

MANAGEMENT

It should be established that the client has negative Hepatitis A serology before commencing immunization. Clients, not in any of the above categories, wanting active immunization should be referred to their own doctor.

Vaccination schedule:

Primary Vaccination Day 0

Booster Vaccination 6-12 months

Twinrix provides Hepatitis A and B immunization but requires 3 injections:

Disclaimer

The content of these treatment guidelines is for information purposes only. The treatment guidelines are generic in character and should be applied to individuals only as deemed appropriate by the treating practitioner on a case by case basis. Bayside Health, through MSHC, does not accept liability to any person for the information or advice (or the use of such information or advice) which is provided through these treatment guidelines. The information contained within these treatment guidelines is provided on the basis that all persons accessing the treatment guidelines undertake responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of the content and its suitability for a particular patient. Responsible use of these guidelines requires that the prescriber is familiar with contraindications and precautions relevant to the various pharmaceutical agents recommended herein.

Vaccination schedule: 0, 1 month and 6 months
Rapid schedule: 0, day 7, day 21 and booster at 12 months.