**Hepatitis A/B Vaccine (TWINRIX®)**

**Precautions and Contraindications**

Screen all patients for precautions and contraindications to immunization.

**Indications**

**TWINRIX®** brand hepatitis A/B vaccine is indicated for active immunization against hepatitis A virus (HAV) and hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection for the following eligible groups:

* Any person 18 years of age or older with an indication for both hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccination
* Patients with chronic liver disease
* Injection drug users
* Men who have sex with men
* Persons with clotting factor disorders who receive therapeutic blood products
* International travelers under certain circumstances
  + Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for travelers to areas of high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity
  + Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for travelers to areas of high or intermediate hepatitis B endemicity who plan to stay for six or more months and have frequent close contact with the local population.
* Persons at increased risk due to occupational exposure
* Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for unvaccinated persons who anticipate close personal contact (e.g., household contact or regular babysitting) with an international adoptee from a country of high or intermediate endemicity during the first 60 days following arrival of the adoptee in the United States. Countries outside the US other than Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Western Europe should be considered to have high or intermediate endemicity for hepatitis A virus.

**Recommended Schedule**

* Persons 18 years of age or older
* For persons, 18 years of age and older, recommended for Hepatitis A vaccine because of close contact with an international adoptee, the first three doses of the 4-dose series (i.e. the accelerated schedule) should be completed as soon as adoption is planned, ideally 2 or more weeks before the arrival of the adoptee. The fourth dose (i.e., the booster dose) in the accelerated schedule is needed to assure long-term immunity. Alternatively, **TWINRIX**® can be given with the regular dosing schedule with proper planning in anticipation of the adoption, so that all three doses are completed before the arrival of the adoptee.

**Dosage and Route**

* **TWINRIX**® should be administered by intramuscular injection. **Do not inject intravenously, intradermally, or subcutaneously.**
* Primary immunization for adults consists of three doses, given on a 0-**,** 1-, and 6-month schedule.
* **Accelerated dosing schedule:**
  + 4-dose schedule, given on days 0, 7 and 21 to 30 followed by a booster dose 12 months after the first dose.

**Anatomical Site** (ACIP and the AAFP recommendations for intramuscular injections)

* For adults (persons 18 years of age and older) the deltoid muscle is recommended for routine intramuscular vaccinations. The suggested needle size is 1-1½ inches and   
  22-25 gauge.

**Precautions**

* See precautions in package insert
* Latex allergy – See WARNINGS in package insert for information about any latex components in the prefilled syringes being used. The vial stopper is latex-free.
* It is not known whether the vaccine can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. This vaccine should only be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly indicated.
* It is not known whether this vaccine is excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when administered to a nursing woman.
* As with other intramuscular injections, use with caution in patients on anticoagulant therapy

**Contraindications**

Individuals with:

* Allergy to vaccine components
* Allergy to Neomycin sulfate
* Allergy to Yeast protein
* Anaphylactic reaction to the vaccine or a constituent of the vaccine
* Acute, moderate or severe illness with or without fever

**Adverse Events**

* See the product’s package insert
* See Adverse Events Following Vaccinations page of this section

**Storage and Handling**

* Store in refrigerator at 36oF – 46oF (2oC – 8oC)
* DO NOT FREEZE; discard if product has been frozen.

**Other Important Notes**

* If administered concomitantly with immune globulin (IG), use a separate syringe and different site.
* Postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) during hepatitis A outbreaks or as part of a contact investigation. **TWINRIX**® **vaccine should not be used for hepatitis A PEP**. Use single antigen hepatitis A vaccine for hepatitis A PEP, when hepatitis A vaccine is indicated. See the Hepatitis A vaccine protocol for additional details.

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