

Avaxim®, Havrix® and Vaqta® Vaccine Information Sheet

(Hepatitis A vaccine)

Avaxim®, Havrix® and Vaqta® are vaccines that protect against hepatitis A

- Each vaccine works equally well
- Two doses of vaccine given at least 6 months apart are required for full protection
- The vaccine is given as an injection in the upper arm
- Paediatric versions of these vaccines are also available

Mild side effects may occur, such as:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
- Slight fever, headache, weakness, muscle or joint pain

Severe side effects are rare.

People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have ever had a severe reaction to a vaccine. It is best to speak to a health care provider when there are complicated health concerns or previous severe reactions to vaccines
- Have an allergy to neomycin or latex

Hepatitis A

- Is an infection that causes inflammation and swelling of the liver
- Can cause fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes)
- Does not always produce symptoms, but the infected person can still spread the virus to others
- Spreads through the feces of an infected person. The virus can spread by:
 - Touching an infected person's stool (for example, changing an infected baby's diaper), and then eating or drinking with your hands
 - Eating food made by someone who touched infected stool
 - Eating food harvested from contaminated waters (such as raw or undercooked mollusks) or contaminated produce such as lettuce and strawberries
 - Drinking water or drinks with ice cubes that are contaminated by infected stool (a problem in developing countries)
 - Having oral-anal sex with an infected person

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York Region Health Connection

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