

**EDUCATION GRAM™  
HEPATITIS A**

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Hepatitis A is a contagious liver infection caused by the Hepatitis A virus. Hepatitis A is one of several types of hepatitis viruses that cause liver inflammation. Thus the **rate of occurrence** of Hepatitis A in the United States is the lowest they have been in the 40 years and the number of cases has decreased by 50%. **Transmission** is from contaminated food or water, and from close contact with someone who's infected. **Mild cases** of Hepatitis A do not require treatment and most people who are infected recover completely with no permanent liver damage. **Prevention** for Hepatitis A includes good hygiene, such as hand washing, and other listed in the table below.

**Hepatitis A Overview:**

<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>Preventions</u>	<u>Treatment</u>
Appear within a few weeks  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Dark urine</li> <li>• Jaundice</li> <li>• Joint pain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel or work in regions with high rates of Hepatitis A</li> <li>• Live with another person infected with Hepatitis A</li> <li>• All Children at age 1 year</li> <li>• Men who have sexual encounters with other men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good hygiene</li> <li>• Supportive therapy</li> <li>• Hepatitis A Vaccine (listed below)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific treatment exists recommended to rest and not over-exert yourself</li> </ul>

**Hepatitis A Vaccines:**

<u>Vaccine</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Age (years)</u>	<u>Dose</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Hepatitis A, inactivated	Havrix (GlaxoSmithK)	1-18 >19	0.5 mL 1.0 mL	IM IM	0.6-12 mo	None
Hepatitis A, inactivated	Vaqta (Merck& Co.)	1-18 >19	0.5 mL 1.0 mL	IM IM	0.6-18 mo	None

Reference:

1. American Liver Foundation. Hepatitis A. <http://www.liverfoundation.org>
2. Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Hepatitis A, <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/index.htm>