

The Hepatitis B Vaccine and Kidney Disease



The Hepatitis B vaccine(s) protect against the *Hepatitis B virus*.

SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITIS B

- Abdominal pain
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)

COMPLICATIONS OF HEPATITIS B

- Liver failure
- Anemia
- Kidney damage

HEPATITIS B VACCINE DOSAGE AND TIMING RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Primary series** (if unvaccinated): 3 doses over 6 months.
- **Boosters** (if previously vaccinated): 1-3 additional doses if immunity falls.

You may have been vaccinated for hepatitis B as a child but may require a booster series as an adult.

KIDNEY PATIENT (PRE-DIALYSIS)

- A primary series as above, if needed.
- Early vaccination **before the start of dialysis or transplantation** is best for patients with chronic kidney disease.

DIALYSIS PATIENTS

- May be eligible for an **additional dose** during the primary series.
- Immunity should be monitored and boosters provided as needed.

TRANSPLANT PATIENTS

- A primary series as above before surgery, if needed.
- Immunity should be monitored for 3-6 months after surgery.

WHICH HEPATITIS B VACCINE SHOULD KIDNEY PATIENTS GET?

- There are 5 non-live vaccines available for adults in Canada. All can be used for people with kidney disease.
- The vaccine you receive may depend on the availability and other health needs.
- Dialysis and transplant patients may be eligible for a higher dose version of the vaccine to improve immunity.

HEPATITIS B VACCINE SAFETY FOR KIDNEY PATIENTS

- Hepatitis B vaccines have been shown to be safe for people with kidney disease, on dialysis, or receiving a transplant.
- There is no evidence to suggest that vaccination would change or worsen kidney function.

*Vaccine availability and coverage may vary across the country.

Always follow the advice and recommendations of your healthcare team to determine which vaccines are right for you and when.