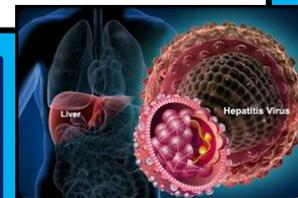


Hepatitis B Immunisation -Dental

Single
Point
Lesson

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a blood borne virus which affects the liver. The virus is transmitted by exposure to infected blood or bodily fluid that contains blood. The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that over 350 million people worldwide are chronically infected with HBV. HBV vaccine is highly effective at preventing infection if given shortly after exposure. Ideally, immunisation should commence within 48 hours, although it should still be considered up to a week after exposure.



Immunisation

- A minimum of three doses of HBV vaccine for individuals at high risk is usually given.
- Antibody responses to HBV vaccine vary widely between individuals.
- It is preferable to achieve anti-HBs levels above 100mIU/ml, although levels of 10mIU/ml or more are generally accepted as enough to protect against infection.
- In those at risk of occupational exposure, particularly healthcare, antibody titres should be checked one to four months after the completion of a primary course of vaccine
- Staff who do not seroconvert (build up antibodies) from the vaccine given should be risk assessed on an individual basis of risk of exposure.
- It is recommended that individuals at continuing risk of infection should be offered a single booster dose of vaccine, **once only**, around five years after primary immunisation.
- **Remember: Records of immunization for staff should be kept on personnel records.**

All healthcare workers who may have direct contact with patients' blood, blood stained body fluids or tissues, require vaccination. This includes any staff who are at risk of injury from blood contaminated sharps instruments, or of being deliberately injured or bitten by patients.

Remember: Inoculation injury: ALWAYS follow your protocol for injury & seek IMMEDIATE advice.

Further advice can be found in the gov.uk guidance: Hepatitis B: the green book: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hepatitis-b-the-green-book-chapter-18>



Immunisation & Inoculation injury

A free advice & inoculation injury drop in service is available for ALL dental staff from:

Occupational Health @ Aintree University Hospital. Liverpool L9 7AL

Tel: 0151 529 6607

Email: www.aintreeworkandwell-being.nhs.uk



Further advice can be obtained from the infection control team on 01744 457314/01744 457312