

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS

AVAXIM® – Inactivated Hepatitis A Vaccine



Discuss with your healthcare provider whether this vaccine is appropriate for you.

What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is an infection of the liver, caused by a virus, that is very common in developing countries. The infection is characterized by jaundice – a yellowing of the skin. Symptoms can include fatigue, nausea and general weakness that can last a month or more. Younger children may show no symptoms at all but can still pass the disease along to others. The illness is rarely fatal, but about 25% of reported adult cases require hospitalization.

How is hepatitis A spread?

You can get sick by consuming contaminated food and water. The virus can also be spread from person to person.

How can I protect myself?

Vaccination with AVAXIM® reduces your risk of hepatitis A infection in persons 12 years of age or older.

You will receive 1 injection in the shoulder muscle. For long-term protection, a booster dose is required within 6 to 36 months following the first injection.

The majority of persons who are vaccinated with AVAXIM® will produce enough antibodies to help protect them against hepatitis A. However, as with all vaccines, 100% protection cannot be guaranteed.

Persons with a weakened immune system, whether from disease or treatment, may not obtain the expected protection from the vaccine.

Immunization is an important measure in preventing hepatitis A, but nevertheless

travellers are advised to avoid risky food and drink that can be contaminated.

Ask your healthcare provider about ways to protect yourself from exposure to diseases transmitted by consuming contaminated food and water. (This includes ice cubes and water used for personal hygiene, e.g., tooth brushing.) There is limited data for geriatrics aged 65 years and older available.

Who should be vaccinated?

Individuals travelling to a hepatitis A risk area should consider receiving AVAXIM®. The vaccine is not for the treatment of hepatitis A infection.



Moderate to High Risk Areas

Who should not be vaccinated with AVAXIM®?

- children under 12 years of age. Please ask your healthcare provider for the suitable option for those under 12;
- anyone with a known allergy to the vaccine or any of its components; Caution should be exercised when the vaccine is administered to subjects with hypersensitivity to formaldehyde or neomycin (and other antibiotics of the same class)

- anyone ill with an acute disease or high fever. Wait until you are well before having the vaccine. A minor illness with no fever, or low-grade fever is not usually a reason to defer immunization;
- vaccination in pregnancy is not recommended unless there is a definite risk of acquiring hepatitis A. Pregnant women should discuss the benefits versus the risks of AVAXIM® vaccination with their healthcare provider.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects reported after vaccination with AVAXIM® are usually mild and short lasting. The most common local reaction is mild pain at the injection site, occasionally associated with redness. Some people may develop systemic reactions such as fever, weakness, headache, muscle or joint ache or gastrointestinal tract disorders such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Your healthcare provider can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects that may occur after receiving AVAXIM®.

Will I ever need another AVAXIM® vaccination?

For long-term protection, a booster dose is recommended between 6 and 36 months after having received the first dose.

AVAXIM® is an effective vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis A infection. It is not indicated to reduce death, symptoms and hospitalization associated with hepatitis A.

NOTE: Disease risk areas change over time. Ask your healthcare provider for the most current disease information for your destination.

CLINIC INFORMATION:

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