

Hepatitis A (HAV)

Transmission

Source: Person-to-person
Often from asymptomatic infections, particularly in young children (0-5 years: 70%, older children and adults: 30%)

Transmission:

- Most common fecal-oral route
- Fecal contamination, oral ingestion
- Blood transfusion rare
- Mother to newborn infant rare
- Sexual contact rare (often fecal-oral)

Incubation (infection → symptom onset) 4 wks (15 -50 d)	Acute Hepatitis (general symptoms, jaundice) 3 wks	Convalescence < 2 months
	+ + +	+++ +++ IgM ++
		+ ++ +++ IgG

Communicability
(viremia, virus in stools)
2 wks → Sympt. Onset → 1wk

Prophylaxis indicated for

- Household contacts
- Sexual contacts
- Child day care contacts
- Food handler contacts

No prophylaxis

School, Office,
Workplace

**Window of opportunity for prophylaxis
Vaccine**
Communicable period + 2 wks

Exclusion: Child Care Center, Food handling (7 days after symptom onset)

Diagnosis

Confirmed case: Meets clinical case definition and is laboratory confirmed, or
Meets clinical case definition and has epidemiological link to known, confirmed case

Clinical case definition:

- acute illness
- discrete onset of symptoms
- jaundice or elevated bilirubin ≥ 3.0 mg/dL or elevated serum aminotransferase (ALT) levels ≥ 200 IU/L
- absence of a more likely diagnosis

Laboratory diagnosis: PCR to confirm acute cases. Positive in blood from 5 to 59 days

Serology tests:

- Anti HAV IgM = current infection, consistent with acute or recent illness
- Anti HAV IgM + IgG = current infection, consistent with later course of illness
- BUT**
- Anti HAV IgG only = past infection (current immunity, lasts for years)
- Anti HAV IgG only = < 2-3 weeks after HAV vaccination
- Anti HAV (total) = not sufficient to differentiate between current and past infection

Treatment, Prophylaxis

Treatment:

- Supportive
- Rest

Prophylaxis of the exposed:

- Must be given within 14 days after exposure, to be effective
- Vaccine
- Immune Globulin (IG) 0.1 ml/kg IM as soon as possible after exposure

HAV Immunization:

- Recommended for: close contacts of persons infected with hepatitis A; children at 1 year of age; travelers; MSM; drug users; person with occupational risks; persons experiencing homelessness; persons with clotting-factor disorders; persons with chronic liver disease; close contacts of international adoptees; and persons wishing to obtain immunity.

Control

