

Student Health and Wellness Center 455 Lee Street Suite 300-A Atlanta, GA 30310 HEPLISAV B VACCINE AUTHORIZATION

HEPATITIS B:

Hepatitis B is a virus that can cause severe inflammation of the liver, called Hepatitis. Hepatitis itself may lead to chronic liver disease or liver cancer. In some people, the virus causes mild flulike symptoms; in others it causes death. Although most people recover from the disease, some may become chronic carriers of the virus and may transmit the disease to others. One third of people infected with the Hepatitis B virus will have such mild case that they will feel no symptoms and will not know they have the disease. Hepatitis B is a strong virus that resists the usual practices of hygiene. It is far more difficult to kill outside the body than the AIDS virus. Hepatitis B can live for over a week in dried blood, sweat, or saliva on clothing or surfaces. It lives in most body fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal secretions, urine, saliva, and sweat.

THE VACCINE:

The newest hepatitis B vaccine, Heplisav B, is a noninfectious, synthetic vaccine. It is given by injection in the arm at 0, 1 month. Heplisav B will prevent hepatitis B and hepatitis due to the delta agent. It will not prevent hepatitis A or hepatitis non-A/non-B.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Recipients of the vaccine may experience local reactions such as soreness, redness, and swelling at the injection site. These reactions are mild and generally subside within two days of vaccination. A low-grade fever occurs occasionally. Other complaints may include fatigue, malaise, headache, nausea, and dizziness.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Heplisav B is contraindicated in individuals who are hypersensitive to yeast or any other components of the vaccine. This vaccine is not recommended for use in pregnant woman and nursing mothers. Any serious active infection is reason for delaying use. Persons with immunodeficiency or those receiving immuno-suppressive therapies should have authorization from their private physician. Also, persons with severed compromised cardio-pulmonary status or those in whom a febrile or systemic reaction could pose a significant risk should have authorization from their physician.

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