Vaccination against Hepatitis B Virus for People with Chronic Renal Insufficiency

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The Department of Health has issued guidance stating that all individuals that might require haemodialysis treatment in the future should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B virus. When renal insufficiency is advanced the rate of seroconversion is reduced and so where possible vaccination is recommended early in the course of progressive renal disease. Because the rate of seroconversion in people with renal insufficiency is less than the general population, high dose vaccine is recommended.

We identify those individuals under our care who should be offered vaccination. Many of our patients live some distance from Southmead hospital and find vaccination at their local general practice most convenient.

We would therefore be grateful if you would arrange vaccination according to the protocol below. Since we will need to know if seroconversion occurs we will do the antibody tests in our outpatient department and then advise if additional doses or an additional course of vaccination is needed.

The protocol requires that individuals who have responded to the vaccine should have antibody levels checked annually and booster doses of vaccine if antibodies are undetectable. We will perform this monitoring in the renal unit and will let you know if a booster dose is advised.

The hepatitis B preparation recommended for patients with renal failure is **HBvaxPRO 40μg (1ml = 1 dose)** or **Engerix B 20mcg (2ml = 1 dose)**
The standard vaccination course is as follows:

1st dose (40μg IM preferably into deltoid muscle).
2nd dose (40μg IM preferably into deltoid muscle) 1 month later.
3rd dose (40μg IM preferably into deltoid muscle) 5 months after 2nd dose.

A booster, if required, will be a single dose (40μg IM preferably into deltoid muscle) of vaccine.

Reference


NHS Constitution. Information on your rights and responsibilities. Available at www.nhs.uk/aboutnhs/constitution