PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Yellow Fever Vaccine

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US

YF-VAX

Brand Names: Canada

YF-VAX

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to prevent yellow fever.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.
- If your child is allergic to eggs, talk with the doctor.
- If your child has a weak immune system or a disease that may cause a weak immune system like HIV.
- If your child is taking any drugs to suppress the immune system. This may be certain doses of steroids like prednisone. There are many drugs that can suppress the immune system. Ask your child's doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If your child is getting radiation.

- If your child is younger than 9 months of age. Do not give this vaccine to a child younger than 9 months of age.

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed an infant younger than 9 months of age if she gets this drug.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe to give this drug with all of your child's other drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Vaccines may not fully protect all people who get them. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Some side effects may happen up to 30 days after getting this vaccine. Tell your child's doctor if your child has any side effects within 30 days after getting this vaccine.
- If your child gets this vaccine before travel, your child may need to take along proof. Talk with the doctor.
- Tell the doctor if your child has recently had a vaccine or before your child gets any other vaccines.

If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:

- Talk with the doctor if your child is pregnant, becomes pregnant, or is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to your child and the baby.

What are some side effects that I need to call my child's doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Feeling confused.
- Not able to move face muscles as much.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Trouble controlling body movements.
- Seizures.
- Severe dizziness or passing out can happen after or sometimes before getting a vaccine. Tell your child's doctor right away if your child feels dizzy.
- A health problem that may lead to severe organ problems has rarely happened with this vaccine. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Call the doctor right away if your child has severe muscle pain or headache, feels very tired or weak, or has trouble breathing. Call the doctor right away if your child has signs of liver problems like dark urine, decreased appetite, stomach pain, light-colored stools, or yellow skin or eyes. Call the doctor right away if your child has any bruising or bleeding or signs of kidney problems like not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is passed.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

- Headache.
- Muscle pain.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Mild fever.
- Pain, redness, or swelling where the shot was given.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- It is given as a shot into the fatty part of the skin.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Call your child's doctor to find out what to do.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your child's doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

General drug facts

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Additional Information

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) are made by the staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Each VIS gives information to properly inform the adult receiving the vaccine or, in the case of a minor, the child's parent or legal representative about the risks and benefits of each vaccine. Before a doctor vaccinates a child or an adult, the provider is required by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act to give a copy of the VIS. You can also get foreign language versions.

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/yellow-fever.html

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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