

British HIV Association guidelines on the use of vaccines in HIV-positive adults 2015



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BHIVA GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF VACCINES IN HIV-POSITIVE ADULTS 2015

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Table of contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS TABLE	8
3. ANTHRAX.....	9
4. CHOLERA	11
5. DIPHTHERIA.....	14
6. <i>HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE</i> SEROTYPE b	16
7. HEPATITIS A.....	19
8. HEPATITIS B.....	22
9. HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS.....	29
10. INFLUENZA	36
11. JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS.....	42
12. MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA	44
13. MENINGOCOCCUS	48
14. PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH).....	51
15. PNEUMOCOCCUS	54
16. POLIOMYELITIS.....	61
17. RABIES	64
18. SMALLPOX.....	69
19. TETANUS	73
20. TICK-BORNE ENCEPHALITIS	76
21. TYPHOID FEVER	79
22. TUBERCULOSIS	82
23. VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS	85
24. YELLOW FEVER VIRUS	91

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The need for updated guidance

These guidelines provide updated, GRADE-based recommendations on the use of vaccines in HIV-positive adults. Several factors have made the updating of HIV-specific vaccination guidelines important: effective antiretroviral therapy (ART) has substantially modified the natural history of HIV infection, vaccination practices are evolving, and a large number of novel vaccines are becoming available in clinical care. The update contains important new guidance regarding the use of new vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV), shingles (herpes zoster) and pneumococcus. Further key updates are related to the use of hepatitis B, meningococcus and pertussis vaccines.

Compared with HIV-negative individuals, HIV-positive adults often have an increased risk of infection or experience more severe morbidity following exposure to vaccine-preventable diseases, and therefore a lower threshold for extending indications and offering vaccination may be appropriate relative to the general population. Improved health and prognosis mean that HIV-positive adults are also increasingly likely to engage in travel or occupations that carry a risk of exposure to infectious agents, and these otherwise healthy individuals should not be denied protection or engagement with such activities if evidence indicates vaccination is safe and immunogenic. Immune responses to vaccination are often sub-optimal in HIV-positive patients, and while these improve with ART, they often remain lower and decline more rapidly than in HIV-negative individuals. However, many of these vaccines still afford protection and for some vaccines it is possible to improve immunogenicity by offering modified vaccine schedules, with higher or more frequent doses, without compromising safety.

Non-replicating vaccines (e.g. whole inactivated, polysaccharide, conjugated and subunit vaccines, or virus-like particles) can be used safely in HIV-positive persons, whereas replicating (live) vaccines have traditionally been contraindicated. However, ART-induced immunorestitution reduces the risk of adverse events, in many cases shifting the risk–benefit ratio in favour of vaccination, whereby the risk of disease with natural infection becomes greater than the risk of live vaccine-related adverse events. Important examples of replicating vaccines that can be used in HIV-positive persons with good immunity include those for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), varicella-zoster virus (VZV) and yellow fever. For vaccinated individuals, the importance of infection avoidance and infection control should continue to be emphasised.

It is envisaged that the HIV specialist should provide overall guidance on vaccine use and enlist the help of primary care physicians for vaccine administration. Education of healthcare providers and good communication are key requirements to ensure successful implementation of this guidance. Despite evidence that HIV-positive persons benefit from vaccination, there are persisting perceptions about disease incidence and burden, and vaccine effectiveness and safety, which affect vaccination practices among health professionals caring for HIV-positive patients. It is hoped that this guidance will help overcoming such barriers.

Key points: vaccination of HIV-positive adults	
• High risk of infection	Lowers threshold for vaccination
• High risk of severe disease	Lowers threshold for vaccination Extends indications for vaccination
• Improved prognosis	Allows engagement with exposure-prone occupations and travel Increases the likely impact of vaccine-preventable infections
• Immunorestitution	Improves vaccine immunogenicity Overcomes traditional contraindications to replicating vaccines
• Reduced immunogenicity	May be overcome with higher and more frequent vaccine doses
• Perceptions	Create barriers to effective vaccination
• Evolving knowledge	Requires education of healthcare professionals and effective communication between primary and specialist care providers

1.2 How to use the guidelines

- The guidelines are meant to highlight specific aspects of vaccine use that are relevant to HIV-positive adults. They are intended to be complementary to national guidance available through The Green Book (www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book), to which readers should refer for the latest information on available vaccines and vaccination procedures in the United Kingdom (UK)
- For epidemiological information relevant to the use of travel-related vaccines, the reader is invited to consult guidance for health professionals available through the National Travel Health Network and Centre (nathnac.net). Country-specific information for travellers is also available from Public Health England (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england); Health Protection Scotland (www.hps.scot.nhs.uk); Travax (www.travax.nhs.uk); and FitForTravel (www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)
- A summary of the recommendations contained in the guidelines can be found on page 8. The reader should refer to the individual chapters for details

1.3 General principles

1.3.1 Replicating (live) vaccines

- HIV-positive adults with CD4 cell counts <200 cells/ μ L must not be given replicating vaccines due to a potential risk of vaccine-associated disease; when indicated, vaccination should be postponed until the CD4 cell count has improved on ART (refer to individual chapters for details)
- HIV-positive adults with a CD4 cell count of 200–350 cells/ μ L have moderate immunodeficiency. Clinical judgment should be used to guide the use of replicating vaccines in these patients. Where exposure is likely, natural infection often carries a greater risk of adverse outcomes than vaccination; a suppressed plasma HIV-1 RNA (“viral”) load on ART increases the safety and immunogenicity of vaccination in this group
- The co-administration of multiple replicating vaccines is not recommended in HIV-positive adults due to uncertainties over safety, immunogenicity and efficacy. An interval of at least 4 weeks between vaccinations is recommended [1D]
- Regardless of the CD4 cell count, contraindications to the use of replicating vaccines that apply to the general population (e.g. in relation to the use of immunosuppressive therapy) also apply to HIV-positive patients. The reader should refer to The Green Book for details (www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book)

- Replicating vaccines (except yellow fever) should be administered at least 14 days before or 3 months after the administration of antibody-containing blood products, because passively acquired antibodies may interfere with the response to the vaccine

1.3.2 Patients with CD4 cell counts <200 cells/ μ L

- Replicating (live) vaccines are contraindicated
- Responses to non-replicating vaccines are reduced. Depending on the level of risk, consideration may be given to delaying vaccination until the CD4 cell count has recovered with ART. Because responses to vaccination are observed in a substantial proportion of patients with low CD4 cell counts however, the potential benefit of vaccination should not be denied to persons at risk of exposure. If indicated, the vaccine course can be repeated following immunorestitution on ART, rather than postponed [1C]

1.3.3 Travel vaccines

- Destination, itinerary, length of stay and planned activities must be considered equally in HIV-positive and HIV-negative travellers when recommending vaccination. However, the consequences of not administering an indicated vaccine may be more severe in people with HIV
- HIV-positive vaccine recipients should be advised that the levels and duration of vaccine-induced protection might be reduced relative to HIV-negative individuals. The importance of additional measures of protection (e.g. hand washing, against insect bites, food hygiene) should be emphasised

1.3.4 Effects of vaccination on viral load

- Transient, clinically non-significant increases in viral load have been reported in HIV-positive persons after the administration of several vaccines. Concerns related to the induction of HIV replication are counterbalanced by the benefit of vaccination, and do not preclude vaccination

1.3.5 General contraindications

- As a general rule, vaccines are contraindicated in persons with a history of previous severe adverse reaction or allergy to the vaccine or its components. In addition, persons with acute moderate or severe febrile illness should not usually be vaccinated until their symptoms have abated
- Non-replicating vaccines may be used in pregnancy and during breastfeeding if there is a significant risk of infection or other clinical indication. Replicating vaccines are contraindicated in pregnancy, although in most cases the theoretical risk to the developing fetus is expected to be low

1.4 Sources of evidence

Available evidence was obtained from published peer-reviewed studies and from studies presented at international conferences in the last two years. In addition, the following websites were consulted: The Green Book (www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book); the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html); and the World Health Organization (WHO; www.who.int/en). The following US guidelines were also reviewed: Recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America: Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescent (updated April 2015) (aidsinfo.nih.gov/contentfiles/lvguidelines/adult_oi.pdf); and Hibberd PL. Immunizations in HIV-infected patients. UpToDate May 2015 (www.uptodate.com/).

1.5 Summary of the modified GRADE system

BHIVA revised and updated the association's guideline development manual in 2011. Further updates have been carried out subsequently [1]. Full details of the guideline development process, including the conflict of interest policy, are outlined in the manual. BHIVA has adopted the modified Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) system for the assessment, evaluation and grading of evidence and the development of recommendations [2,3]. Strong recommendations are graded 1 A–D. Weak recommendations are suggestions graded 2 A–D. Clinicians should follow a strong recommendation unless there is a clear rationale for an alternative approach. Consensus opinion on good practice is indicated as GPP (Good Practice Point).

Summary of the modified GRADE system		
Grade	Quality of evidence	Benefits, source of evidence, impact of further research, recommendation
1A	High	• Benefits clearly outweigh risks and burdens, or vice versa • Consistent evidence from well performed randomised, controlled trials or overwhelming evidence of some other form • Further research is unlikely to change confidence in estimate of benefits and risks • Strong recommendations, can apply to most patients in most circumstances without reservation
1B	Moderate	• Benefits clearly outweigh risks and burdens, or vice versa • Evidence from randomised, controlled trials with important limitations (inconsistent results, methods flaws, indirect or imprecise), or very strong evidence of some other research design • Further research may impact on confidence in the estimate of benefits and risks • Strong recommendation and applies to most patients
1C	Low	• Benefits appear to outweigh risks and burdens, or vice versa • Evidence from observational studies, unsystematic clinical experience, or from randomised, controlled trials with serious flaws • Any estimate of effect is uncertain • Strong recommendation, and applies to most patients. Some of the evidence base supporting the recommendation is, however, of low quality
1D	Very low	• Benefits appear to outweigh risks and burdens, or vice versa • Evidence limited to case studies • Strong recommendation based mainly on case studies and expert judgment
2A	High	• Benefits closely balanced with risks and burdens • Consistent evidence from well performed randomised, controlled trials or overwhelming evidence of some other form • Further research is unlikely to change confidence in estimate of benefits and risks • Weak recommendation, best action may differ depending on circumstances, patients, or societal values
2B	Moderate	• Benefits closely balanced with risks and burdens, some uncertainty in the estimates of benefits, risks and burdens • Evidence from randomised, controlled trials with important limitations (inconsistent results, methods flaws, indirect or imprecise) • Further research may change the estimate of benefits and risks • Weak recommendation, alternative approaches likely to be better for some patients under some circumstances
2C	Low	• Uncertainty in the estimates of benefits, risks, and burdens; benefits may be closely balanced with risks and burdens • Evidence from observational studies, unsystematic clinical experience, or from randomised, controlled trials with serious flaws • Any estimate of effect is uncertain • Weak recommendation; other alternatives may be reasonable
2D	Very low	• Uncertainty in the estimates of benefits, risks, and burdens; benefits may be closely balanced with risks and burdens • Evidence limited to case studies and expert judgment • Very weak recommendation; other alternatives may be equally reasonable

1.6 References

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3. GRADE Working Group. Grading the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations. Available at: www.gradeworkinggroup.org/intro.htm (accessed November 2015).

2. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS TABLE					
Infection/disease	Vaccine	Replicating	Primary course	Indication	Notes
Vaccines with broad indications in adults					
Hepatitis B	Subunit	No	4 doses	All non-immune	Engerix B/HBvaxPRO 40µg; Fendrix 20µg
Influenza	Inactivated	No	1 dose	All yearly	Quadrivalent vaccine preferred
Pneumococcus	Conjugated	No	1 dose	All once	PCV-13
Human papilloma virus	VLP	No	3 doses	Age and gender related	4vHPV or 9vHPV preferred
Hepatitis A	Inactivated	No	2–3 doses	At risk	Three doses if CD4 cell counts <350 cells/µL
Meningococcus	Conjugated	No	2 doses	Age related, at risk	MenC, MenACWY
Meningococcus	Recombinant protein + OMV	No	2 doses	Age related, at risk	MenB
Pertussis	Acellular multicomponent	No	1 dose	Pregnant women	Given as combined dTaP/IPV vaccine
Pneumococcus	Polysaccharide	No	1 dose	At risk, once	PPV-23
Measles, Mumps, Rubella	Live attenuated	Yes	2 doses	All non-immune	Given as combined MMR vaccine, CD4 >200 cells/µL
Varicella (chickenpox)	Live attenuated	Yes	2 doses	All non-immune	CD4 >200 cells/µL
Herpes zoster (shingles)	Live attenuated	Yes	1 dose	All VZV IgG ⁺ , age related	CD4 >200 cells/µL
Vaccines with predominantly travel-related indications in adults					
Cholera	Inactivated + subunit	No	2 doses	Selective use	WC/rBs, oral administration
Japanese encephalitis	Vero cell-derived inactivated	No	2 doses		
Tick-borne encephalitis	Inactivated	No	3–4 doses		
Tetanus	Toxoid	No	1 dose		Given as combined Td/IPV vaccine
Diphtheria	Toxoid	No	1 dose		Given as combined Td/IPV vaccine
Poliovirus	Inactivated	No	1 dose		Given as combined Td/IPV vaccine
Rabies	Cell-culture derived	No	3 doses		Five doses for post-exposure prophylaxis
Typhoid	Polysaccharide	No	1 dose		ViCPS, parenteral
Yellow Fever	Live attenuated	Yes	1 dose		<60 years; CD4 >200 cells/µL
Vaccines with selected indications for at-risk adults					
Anthrax	Filtrate of bacterial proteins	No	4 doses	Occupational	AVP
Haemophilus Influenzae B	Conjugated	No	1 dose	At risk	Given as combined vaccines – Hib/MenC
Smallpox	MVA	No	2 doses	Occupational	
Not preferred and contraindicated vaccines					
Hepatitis A/B		No		Not preferred	Reduced immunogenicity
Hepatitis A/typhoid		No		Not preferred	Reduced HAV immunogenicity
Influenza	Live attenuated	Yes		Not preferred	Intranasal
Smallpox live	Vaccinia virus	Yes		Contraindicated	May be considered if CD4 >200 cells/µL
Tuberculosis	BCG	Yes		Contraindicated	
Typhoid	Live attenuated	Yes		Contraindicated	Oral administration
VLP: virus-like particle; OMV: outer membrane vesicles; Td/IPV: tetanus/diphtheria/inactivated poliovirus; dTaP/IPV : diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis/inactivated poliovirus; VZV: varicella zoster virus; AVP: anthrax vaccine precipitated; MVA: modified vaccinia Ankara; ViCPS: Vi capsular polysaccharide vaccine					

3. ANTHRAX

3.1 Infection and disease

Bacillus anthracis is a toxin-producing Gram-positive bacterium transmitted through spores that can be found in animal products and can remain viable in the environment for years. The infection occurs primarily in herbivorous mammals. Human infection is rare and occurs almost exclusively after contact with infected animals or animal products. Person-to-person transmission may occur through contact with skin lesions but is unusual [1]. The disease may present as one of three syndromes: cutaneous (50% of cases, rare mortality); respiratory (50% mortality); and gastrointestinal (very rare, 25–60% mortality). Meningitis may occur and is usually fatal. Provided it is recognised early, anthrax can be treated effectively with antibiotics.

3.2 Epidemiology

Anthrax occurs in Asia, Africa, and parts of Europe and the Americas. In the UK, human anthrax is rare and is seen almost entirely as an occupational disease in persons handling imported animal products or working with infected animals. Cases have been reported in abattoir workers, tannery/leather workers, farm workers, butchers, engineers, textile workers, and bone meal workers. In recent years, sporadic anthrax outbreaks have been reported among heroin users in northern Europe ('injectional anthrax'), with non-specific early symptoms, severe pathology, and a high case fatality rate, indicating the need for clinical vigilance [2].

3.3 Anthrax in HIV-positive people

It is not known whether the natural history of anthrax is modified by HIV infection.

3.4 Anthrax vaccine

The British vaccine – Anthrax Vaccine Precipitated (AVP) – is non-replicating and contains a cell-free filtrate of *B. anthracis* proteins. The product licence (PL 1511/0058) is held by the UK Department of Health. The anthrax vaccine adsorbed (AVA) is licensed for use in humans in the US. AVP is given by parenteral administration. There have been no formal efficacy trials with AVP. Data from the UK and US suggest that anthrax vaccination prevents disease [3,4]. Anthrax vaccination is considered safe [5–14]. Injection site reactions occur in 47% of AVP recipients [5]. Follow-up data ranging from 3 to 6 years show no overall adverse health effects following receipt of AVP [11].

3.4.1 General indications

Anthrax vaccination is indicated in those with a significant risk of exposure. In the UK, it is available to the Department of Health for occupational health purposes and to the Ministry of Defence to protect service personnel from the use of anthrax as a biological weapon.

3.5 Anthrax vaccine in HIV-positive adults

No data are available on the immunogenicity, safety, and efficacy of anthrax vaccination in HIV-positive persons.

3.6 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Following a credible or confirmed exposure to anthrax, post-exposure prophylaxis consists of antibiotic therapy (e.g. oral ciprofloxacin) and may also include the vaccine. Vaccination is recommended because of the uncertainty of when or if the inhaled spores may germinate. Advice must be obtained from Public Health England or other appropriate agencies.

3.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults at significant risk of anthrax exposure (typically through occupation) be offered vaccination in accordance with general indications, and regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1D]
 - We recommend a primary vaccine course consisting of four parental doses of the non-replicating AVP vaccine given at 0, 3 weeks, 6 weeks, and 6 months, with a booster dose given annually to those at continued risk [1D]
 - We recommend that patients with CD4 cell count <200 cells/ μ L be counselled about potential non-response to vaccination and managed accordingly. Deferred or repeat vaccination may be indicated following immunorestitution on ART [1D]
- We recommend that following a credible or confirmed exposure to anthrax, HIV-positive contacts receive post-exposure prophylaxis with antibiotic therapy and vaccination in accordance with standard recommendations [1D]

3.8 References

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4. CHOLERA

4.1 Infection and disease:

Vibrio cholerae is a non-invasive, toxin-secreting Gram-negative bacterium that colonises the small bowel. Classification into over 200 serogroups is based on the O antigen of the lipopolysaccharide. Cholera epidemics are caused by the O1 serogroup and more recently by the O139 serogroup in South and South-east Asia [1]. Infection is acquired primarily by consuming contaminated water or food; person-to-person transmission is rare. Humans are the only known host. The disease is characterised by sudden onset of profuse watery diarrhoea and responds to fluid- and electrolyte-replacement therapy [1–2]. In extreme cases, hypotension and death can occur within 6–8 hours of the onset of symptoms. Approximately 80% of infected people have mild diarrhoea or may be asymptomatic. Persons with underlying gastrointestinal disease may be at increased risk of disease.

4.2. Epidemiology:

Seven cholera pandemics have been recorded throughout history. The latest started in 1961 and is still ongoing in over 50 countries in regions of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Central and Latin America, with an estimated 3 million cases each year [3]. Large outbreaks are usually caused by a contaminated water supply. In developed countries cases are reported sporadically in travellers, with an overall risk of 5 cases per 100,000 travellers to all destinations [4]. Cholera is rare among UK travellers, and seen predominantly among those who visit the Indian subcontinent. Travellers who follow usual tourist itineraries, use standard tourist accommodation, and observe food safety recommendations while in countries reporting cholera are at little risk. The risk increases for long-term travellers and for those who drink untreated water, eat poorly cooked or raw seafood, or live in unsanitary conditions in disease-endemic areas (e.g. aid workers assisting in disaster relief or refugee camps and adventurous backpackers travelling to remote areas) [4]. Currently, no country requires proof of vaccination against cholera as a condition for entry. Local authorities, however, may require documentation of vaccination.

4.3 Cholera in HIV-positive people:

In cholera-endemic areas, HIV infection is associated with an increased risk for cholera [5]. The risk of severe disease may be increased by immunodeficiency.

4.4 Cholera vaccine:

Several non-replicating oral cholera vaccines are available internationally [6]. The WC/rBs vaccine available in the UK contains inactivated Inaba and Ogawa strains of *V. cholerae* serotype O1, together with recombinant B-subunit of the cholera toxin produced in Inaba strains of *V. cholerae* serotype O1. The replicating, live attenuated CVD 103-HgR vaccine, which has been tested in HIV-positive adults in Mali [7], is currently unavailable. In healthy persons, oral cholera vaccines given as two oral doses 1–6 weeks apart confer 65–86% protection, starting 10 days after the second dose, and lasting for up to 2 years [8–14]. Interestingly, there is evidence of herd protection from some vaccine campaigns [12,15]. The WC/rBS vaccine does not confer protection against *V. cholerae* O139. WC/rBS appears to provide modest protection against travellers' diarrhoea caused by heat-labile toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* during the first 3 months following vaccination [4]. However, use for the specific prevention of travellers' diarrhoea is not recommended. There are no major safety concerns with the WC/rBS vaccine in immunocompetent individuals from endemic or non-endemic countries [9–11,13,16]. The vaccine may cause occasional gastrointestinal symptoms. Systemic symptoms have been reported rarely [4].

General indications

Cholera vaccine is not indicated for most travellers, but is considered for those who are unable to take adequate precautions in highly endemic or epidemic *V. cholerae* 01 settings. These include those assisting in disaster relief or refugee camps; and visitors to remote areas with limited access to healthcare where there are outbreaks. The vaccine should not be co-administered with other oral vaccines.

4.5 Cholera vaccine in HIV-positive adults:

There have been no published reports of the efficacy of the WC/rBS vaccine in HIV-positive travellers. A study conducted in Beira, Mozambique showed 72% protection in a population including approximately 25% HIV-positive persons [14]. HIV-positive adults with CD4 cell counts <100 cells/μL may be expected to respond poorly to oral cholera vaccines, whereas those with CD4 cell counts >100 cells/μL show improved responses after two doses [17,18]. Intestinal immunogenicity may be preserved [19]. Duration of immunity is unknown. The vaccine is well tolerated in HIV-positive people [14,17–20].

4.6 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults at significant risk of cholera exposure (typically through specific travel) be offered vaccination in accordance with general indications, and regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1B]
 - We recommend a primary vaccine course consisting of two oral doses of the non-replicating WC/rBS vaccine given 1–6 weeks apart and at least 1 week prior to exposure. If >6 weeks elapse between doses, the primary course should be restarted [1B]
 - We recommend a single booster dose after 2 years if continued protection is required. If >2 years elapse after completion of the primary vaccine course, the full course should be repeated [1B]

4.7 References

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5. DIPHTHERIA

5.1 Infection and disease

Diphtheria is caused by toxigenic strains of the Gram-positive bacteria *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* and *Corynebacterium ulcerans*, and affects the upper respiratory tract and occasionally the skin. The infection is transmitted via airborne droplets, generally requiring close contact with symptomatic patients or asymptomatic carriers. Alternative modes of transmission are direct contact with skin lesions or infected cattle and other farm animals (*C. ulcerans*). Rare human cases have been associated with the consumption of raw unpasteurised dairy products. Life-threatening complications include cardiac failure and paralysis.

5.2 Epidemiology

Both *C. diphtheriae* and *C. ulcerans* cause diphtheria in the UK. Since the 1990s, *C. ulcerans* has been the predominant cause of infection resulting in sporadic deaths [1]. As a result of successful vaccination programmes, the circulation of *C. diphtheriae* has virtually ceased in the UK. The majority of cases are now mild infections in partially immunised individuals, or in adults who have been fully immunised but have waning immunity. Susceptibility to diphtheria increases with age. In the UK, approximately 50% of adults >30 years of age are estimated to be susceptible to diphtheria [2]. Diphtheria cases continue to be reported from India, South-east Asia, South America, Africa, former Soviet States, and Eastern Europe; thus there is potential for exposure through travel, and re-introduction of *C. diphtheriae* into the UK may also occur through immigration from these regions.

5.3 Diphtheria in HIV-positive people

It is not known whether the natural history of diphtheria is modified by HIV infection.

5.4 Diphtheria vaccine

The diphtheria vaccine is non-replicating and is made from cell-free purified toxin extracted from *C. diphtheriae* and converted into diphtheria toxoid. The vaccine is given to adults in combination with tetanus toxoid and inactivated polio vaccine (Td/IPV) in a preparation containing a lower dosage of diphtheria toxoid than preparations designed for use in childhood. The vaccine is given by parenteral administration. The diphtheria vaccine induces protective antitoxin levels in 95% of recipients after three doses, and shows a clinical efficacy of over 97% [3,4]. The vaccine is well tolerated. Injection site reactions are common but usually self-limited and may occur more frequently following subsequent doses. Fever and other systemic reactions are uncommon. Severe systemic reactions are rare.

5.4.1 General indications

The aim of the UK national vaccination programme is to ensure that all individuals receive at least five vaccine doses. Td/IPV is recommended for vaccination of those aged ≥10 years. Adults who are either unvaccinated or have an uncertain vaccination history are advised to receive primary immunisation with three vaccine doses at monthly intervals. Two further doses are scheduled 5 and 10 years after the last dose. Adults who have received partial vaccination are advised to receive the remaining doses, regardless of the interval since the last dose and type of vaccine previously received. It is also recommended that travellers to epidemic and endemic areas should ensure they are fully vaccinated.

5.5 Diphtheria vaccine in HIV-positive adults

Limited data exist on the immunogenicity and clinical efficacy of the diphtheria vaccine in HIV-positive adults. Vaccine responses may be reduced compared to HIV-negative persons, especially in those with advanced disease and low CD4 cell counts, but improve with ART [5–8]. No increased risk of side effects or adverse reactions to vaccination has been reported in individuals with HIV infection.

5.6 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Contacts of a case or a carrier of *C. diphtheriae* or *C. ulcerans* require antibiotic prophylaxis (e.g. erythromycin). Fully immunised individuals also receive a single reinforcing dose of the vaccine; others are offered to complete the vaccine course.

5.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults who require vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, or polio be given the parenteral Td/IPV vaccine in accordance with general indications, and regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1B]
 - We recommend that individuals who are either unvaccinated or have an uncertain vaccination history receive three vaccine doses at 1 month interval, followed by two booster doses after 5 and 10 years; partially vaccinated individuals should complete the five-dose vaccine course [1B]
 - We recommend that fully vaccinated individuals (five doses) receive a booster dose every 10 years if at risk of exposure, typically through travel [1C]
- We recommend that individuals who may be occupationally exposed to diphtheria (e.g. laboratory workers) be tested for diphtheria antibodies 3 months after vaccination to confirm protective immunity, and be revaccinated if required [1C]
- We recommend that following a credible or confirmed exposure to diphtheria, HIV-positive contacts receive post-exposure prophylaxis with antibiotic therapy and vaccination in accordance with standard recommendations [1C]

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6. HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE SEROTYPE b

6.1 Infection and disease

Haemophilus influenzae is a Gram-negative coccobacillus that can cause invasive disease in young children and in people with predisposing conditions [1–3]. Hib can colonise the nasopharynx in the absence of symptoms. Transmission occurs through respiratory droplets and close contact with a case or a carrier. Invasive disease is usually caused by one of six encapsulated serotypes (a–f), and less commonly by encapsulated non-typeable strains. Serotype b (Hib) is the most virulent strain and, prior to the introduction of routine vaccination, was responsible for >80% of invasive infections, primarily meningitis, among children <5 years of age. Non-encapsulated strains (nHi) mainly cause respiratory disease; invasive nHi disease is uncommon and usually occurs in pregnant women, newborns, and individuals with underlying conditions (immunosuppression, chronic respiratory disease, head trauma, or neurological disease) [4]. Risk factors for invasive Hib disease are similar to those associated with other encapsulated bacteria. Patients with anatomical or functional asplenia and those with complement deficiencies are at an increased risk of disease.

6.2 Epidemiology

Hib remains one of the major vaccine-preventable causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide [5]. In industrialised countries, the introduction of Hib conjugate vaccines into national childhood vaccination programmes over the past two decades has resulted in a sustained decline in the incidence of invasive Hib infections across all age-groups, through a combination of direct and indirect (herd) protection [6,7]. In England and Wales, invasive Hib disease is now infrequent [8]. Most cases occur in adults who typically present with pneumonia and often have pre-existing medical conditions, with an overall case-fatality rate of 9% [8]. Average vaccine coverage remains suboptimal in many developing countries [9].

6.3 *Haemophilus influenzae* in HIV-positive adults

In HIV-positive adults, the risk of invasive *H. influenzae* disease is increased compared to the general population [10,11]. In one study, cumulative incidence reached 79.6/100,000 among men with AIDS aged 20–49 years; however, only one-third of cases was due to the Hib serotype indicating that the Hib vaccine would not be protective. [10]. In countries with established Hib vaccination programmes such as the UK, invasive Hib disease is now uncommon among people with HIV [8].

6.4 Hib vaccine

The Hib vaccine is non-replicating and contains capsular polysaccharide conjugated to a protein (e.g. tetanus toxoid). It is typically part of multivalent vaccines for use in infants, including the diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis/inactivated polio/Hib vaccine (DTaP/IPV/Hib) and the Hib/meningococcal group C vaccine (Hib/MenC). The vaccine is given by parenteral administration. The Hib vaccine is highly immunogenic and efficacious in children [3,5,6,12]; it only protects against invasive Hib disease and offers no protection against other serotypes or against nHi. Although the duration of protection is unknown, no booster doses are routinely recommended after 12 months of age. The vaccine is well tolerated. Injection site reactions occur in 5–30% of recipients. Systemic reactions are infrequent.

6.4.1 General indications

The objective of the UK Hib vaccination programme is to protect all individuals <10 years of age and older individuals at elevated risk from invasive Hib disease, including individuals who develop asplenia or splenic dysfunction or when complement deficiency is diagnosed.

6.5. Hib vaccine in HIV-positive adults

The vaccine has been shown to induce protective antibodies in HIV-positive children [13–16] and adults [17–19]. The magnitude and longevity of responses are related to the CD4 cell count and can be reduced relative to HIV-negative individuals. Clinical effectiveness may also be reduced by HIV infection. In South Africa, 47% of children who developed invasive Hib disease during 2003–2009 despite being fully immunised with the conjugate Hib vaccine were HIV-positive [20]. No safety concerns have emerged in HIV-positive vaccine recipients.

6.6 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Household contacts of a Hib case are given antibiotic prophylaxis (e.g. rifampicin), regardless of their immunisation status, starting as soon as the index case is diagnosed.

6.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- Hib vaccination is not recommended routinely in HIV-positive adults, including patients who develop Hib disease. We recommend however that HIV-positive adults with asplenia, splenic dysfunction or complement deficiency (including those receiving complement inhibitor therapy) receive one parental dose of a Hib-containing vaccine (e.g. Hib/MenC in the UK) whether or not they were immunised previously, and regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1B]
- We recommend that HIV-positive adults who are household contacts of a Hib case are offered antibiotic prophylaxis in accordance with standard recommendations [1C]

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7. HEPATITIS A

7.1 Infection and disease

Hepatitis A virus (HAV) is transmitted faeco-orally through close personal contact, contaminated food and water, and rarely through blood exposure. Person-to-person spread is the most common method of transmission in developed countries. There is evidence that the infection may be spread during sexual contact in men who have sex with men (MSM) [1]. Infection may be asymptomatic, but severity tends to increase with age. Jaundice occurs in 10% of children below the age of 6 years, 40–50% of older children and 70–80% of adults. Fulminant hepatitis is rare (<1% overall) and predominantly occurs in older age groups, but carries a 45% risk of mortality. Patients with chronic liver disease are at risk of severe complications [2]. Although approximately 15% of cases show prolonged or relapsing symptoms, chronic HAV infection is not known to occur. Infection is followed by lifelong immunity.

7.2 Epidemiology

HAV prevalence is low in Northern and Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, and intermediate to high in Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. In the UK, those at risk for infection include:

- Household and sexual contacts of infected persons
- Travellers to countries where HAV is common
- Men who have sex with men
- Injecting and non-injecting drug users
- Individuals at risk of infection during outbreaks
- Those with occupational exposure to HAV (e.g. laboratory workers, sewage workers)
- Persons with haemophilia
- Persons with special needs living in residential institutions, and their carers

7.3 Hepatitis A in HIV-positive adults

Hepatitis A does not appear to be worse in HIV-positive patients when compared to HIV-negative persons, although HAV viraemia may be prolonged [3,4].

7.4 Hepatitis A vaccine

The HAV vaccine is non-replicating and contains whole inactivated virus. Combined hepatitis A/hepatitis B and hepatitis A/typhoid vaccines are also available. The vaccine is given by parenteral administration. The standard vaccine course comprises two doses given 6–12 months apart. In healthy persons, the HAV vaccine is highly immunogenic and efficacious, without safety concerns. Protective levels of antibodies develop in 97–100% of individuals within 1 month of the first dose and in virtually 100% after the second dose. The level of protection against clinical hepatitis is 79–100% after a single dose. The combined hepatitis A/hepatitis B vaccine is also highly efficacious in healthy individuals. Successful immunisation is thought to confer protection for at least 10 years and possibly for life [5,6].

7.4.1 General indications

The HAV vaccine is indicated for persons at risk of exposure (listed above).

7.5 HAV vaccine in HIV-positive adults

The rate, magnitude, and longevity of immune responses to HAV vaccination are generally reduced in HIV-positive persons, although they improve with increasing CD4 cell counts and viral load suppression on ART [7–13]. Less than half of vaccine recipients experience seroconversion after a single vaccine dose; responses increase to over 70% after two doses, while remaining lower than those measured in HIV-negative adults. Further increasing the number of vaccine doses improves

antibody levels and the longevity of response but does not significantly improve overall seroconversion rates. In a randomised study, HIV-positive adults were assigned to receive either two (0 and 6 months) or three (0, 1, and 6 months) HAV vaccine doses. At week 28 after the first vaccine dose, seroconversion rates were 72% vs. 88%, respectively in the observed analysis ($P=0.06$); the three-dose group had significantly higher antibody titres at week 28 and week 72 [7]. Multivariate analysis indicated that absence of tobacco smoking was an independent predictor of response to HAV vaccine (odds ratio [OR] 2.92; 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.07–7.97; $P=0.04$). A prospective cohort study compared responses between HIV-positive MSM receiving two (0 and 6 months) or three (0, 1, and 6 months) doses of HAV vaccine and HIV-negative MSM receiving two vaccine doses [12]. At week 48, HAV seroconversion rates were 76%, 78%, and 89%, respectively. In HIV-positive MSM, antibody titres were significantly higher with three doses than two doses. Responses to HAV vaccination also appear to be higher with the monovalent HAV vaccine than for the combined HAV/HBV vaccine, particularly with low CD4 cells counts and detectable viral load, and among patients not completing the vaccine course [13]. Most patients with high CD4 cell counts show a durable response during up to 5 years of follow-up after HAV vaccination [14]. The HAV vaccine is safe and well tolerated in HIV-positive individuals, including those receiving three vaccine doses over 6 months [7,13]. Injection site reactions are the most frequent side effect.

7.6. Post-exposure prophylaxis

Following a high-risk contact (e.g. in the household setting or other intimate contact) HAV vaccine plus human normal immunoglobulin (HNIG) given intramuscularly (at different sites) within 14 days of exposure can prevent or attenuate disease in susceptible persons. Efficacy beyond 14 days of exposure is unknown; disease may be attenuated rather than prevented. In HIV-negative people the clinical efficacy of prophylaxis is in the range 47–87% [15,16]. Early vaccination alone (without HNIG) seems equally effective in HIV-negative people. There are no data on the efficacy of post-exposure prophylaxis in HIV-positive persons.

7.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults at risk of hepatitis A exposure (see risk groups) be offered vaccination with the monovalent HAV vaccine [1A]
 - Patients with CD4 cell counts >350 cells/ μ L should be offered two vaccine doses at 0 and 6 months [1A]
 - Patients with CD4 cell counts <350 cells/ μ L should receive three vaccine doses at 0, 1, and 6 months in order to increase antibody levels and longevity, especially if they are likely to be at continued risk of exposure [1C]
 - Pre-vaccination testing for evidence of HAV immunity may be cost-effective in some clinical settings: screening may target those who were born in or lived for extensive periods in geographical areas that have a high to intermediate HAV endemicity, MSM, injecting drug users, and those aged >50 years [GPP]
- We recommend that patients at continued risk of exposure receive a boosting vaccine dose every 10 years [1C]
- We recommend that in circumstances where a profoundly immunocompromised patient (CD4 cell count <200 cell/ μ L) must be protected from likely exposure to HAV, HNIG may be considered alongside the vaccine for temporary (~ 3 weeks) pre-exposure prophylaxis [1D]
- We recommend that following a significant exposure, HIV-positive contacts who are HAV seronegative receive post-exposure prophylaxis with the HAV vaccine, with the first dose given as soon as possible and within 14 days of exposure; if the CD4 cell count is <200 cells/ μ L they should also receive HNIG [1C].
 - While HAV serostatus should be determined if unknown, prophylaxis should not be delayed while waiting for the results [GPP]

- We suggest that in some circumstances post-exposure prophylaxis may be considered up to 28 days after the contact [2D]

7.8 References

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8. HEPATITIS B

8.1 Infection and disease

The hepatitis B virus (HBV) is transmitted through sexual intercourse, percutaneous and parenteral exposure to blood and infected body fluids, and vertically from mother to child. The severity of acute infection varies from asymptomatic to fulminant hepatitis. After primary infection, HBV persists in 90% of infants infected perinatally, 25–50% of children aged 1–5 years and 1–5% of immunocompetent adults and older children. Chronic infection can lead to liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma.

8.2 Epidemiology

Based on the prevalence of the infection, three geographical categories can be identified: low prevalence (<2%), intermediate prevalence (2–8%), and high prevalence (>8%). Regions of low prevalence include Western, Northern and Central Europe, North America, and Australia. Worldwide, the risk of infection is increased in injecting drug users (IDUs), men who have sex with men (MSM), those with multiple sexual partners, household and other close contacts of HBV-infected persons, those receiving blood or blood products, patients and staff of haemodialysis centres, people sharing unsterile medical and dental equipment, people providing and receiving acupuncture and tattooing with unsterile devices, healthcare workers, staff and residents of residential accommodation for those with mental disabilities, and travellers to areas of high or intermediate HBV prevalence if engaging in exposure-prone activities (including undertaking relief aid work and/or participating in contact sports).

8.3 HBV in HIV-positive adults

Both the risk of HBV infection and that of chronicity are increased in HIV-seropositive persons [1]. Chronic HBV infection is found in 5–10% of HIV-positive persons worldwide and co-infected persons show increased rates of progression to cirrhosis and liver cancer and a higher mortality than persons with either infection alone [2].

8.4 Hepatitis B vaccine

The yeast-derived HBV vaccine is prepared with biosynthetic surface antigen made using recombinant technology. There is also a combined hepatitis A/hepatitis B vaccine. Newly developed pre-S/S HBV vaccines are under evaluation and may in the future play a role in improving vaccine response rates in special risk groups including HIV-positive patients [3,4]. The vaccine is given by parenteral administration. In HIV-negative adults, the schedule of administration can be: typical (three doses at 0, 1, and 6 months); accelerated (four doses at 0, 1, 2, and 12 months); or ultra-rapid (four doses at 0, 7–10 days, 21 days, and 12 months). Approximately 80–90% of healthy young adults achieve HBV surface antibody (HBsAb) levels >10 IU/L after a complete vaccine course. Antibody levels >100 IU/L are regarded as ideal whereas a level <10 IU/L is classified as non-response [5]. Factors that reduce responses to HBV vaccination include age >40 years, obesity, male gender, haemodialysis, smoking, and immunocompromise, including HIV infection.

HBsAb levels decline over time after successful vaccination. After 20 years, 18–37% of adults have HBsAb levels >10 IU/L [6,7]. There is some evidence that protective immunity is still present even though HBsAb levels have fallen <10 IU/L. Infection may occur, but it is mostly transient [7–10]. In a study from the Gambia, adolescents and young adults vaccinated in infancy showed a risk of HBV infection, but this did not usually result in a chronic infection [7]. Time since vaccination and a low peak HBsAb response were the strongest risk factors for HBV infection. There is limited evidence regarding the need for booster vaccine doses in healthy individuals. UK guidelines recommend that persons at ongoing risk receive a single booster 5 years after completion of the primary vaccine course.

8.4.1 General indications

In the UK HBV vaccination is offered to individuals who are at increased risk of infection or severe disease. The groups include IDUs, individuals who change sexual partners frequently (e.g. sex workers), MSM, close contacts of people with HBV infection, families adopting children from countries with a high or intermediate HBV prevalence, foster carers, individuals receiving regular blood or blood products and their carers, patients with chronic renal failure, patients with chronic liver disease, inmates of custodial institutions, individuals in residential accommodation for those with learning difficulties, people travelling to or going to reside in areas of high or intermediate prevalence, and individuals at occupational risk.

8.5 HBV vaccine in HIV-positive adults

HBV vaccination significantly reduces the risk of incident HBV infection in HIV-positive persons, and also reduces the risk of a newly acquired infection becoming chronic [11]. HIV infection however affects responses to HBV vaccination, reducing HBsAb seroconversion rates, and HBsAb levels and longevity [12–16]. After standard vaccination, rates of HBsAb seroconversion (>10 IU/L) range between 7% and 88%, and correlate strongly with CD4 cell counts and viral load [12–21]. Strategies to improve responses have included revaccination of non-responders once the viral load is suppressed on ART and the CD4 cell count is >350 – 500 cells/ μ L, and the use of larger and more frequent vaccine doses [19–23]. When using yeast-based HBV vaccines, high-dose vaccination improves HBsAb responses in HIV-positive people. A systematic review and meta-analysis of five studies including a total of 883 patients compared HBsAb response with high-dose (40 μ g) vs. standard-dose (20 or 10 μ g depending on vaccine type) vaccination [22]. High-dose vaccination increased response rates with a pooled OR of 1.96 (95% CI 1.47–2.61). With four studies that included only vaccine-naïve patients the OR was 1.82 (95% CI 1.35–2.47). No study heterogeneity was found. An open-label, multicentre, randomised trial of patients with CD4 cell counts >200 cell/ μ L evaluated three HBV vaccination strategies: (a) three standard-dose (20 μ g) intramuscular administrations at 0, 1, and 6 months ($n=145$); (b) four high-dose (40 μ g) intramuscular administrations at 0, 1, 2, and 6 months ($n=148$); and (c) four low-dose (4 μ g) intradermal administrations at 0, 1, 2, and 6 months ($n=144$) [20]. Response rates (HBsAb ≥ 10 IU/L) 4 weeks after the last vaccine dose in patients who received at least one vaccine dose (missing HBsAb titre = non-responder) was 65% (95% CI 56%–72%) in group (a) vs. 82% (77%–88%) in group (b) ($P<0.001$) and 77% (69%–84%) in group (c) ($P=0.02$). A cohort study also found that HBsAb response rates were 83% and 91% after three and four double-doses, respectively and HBsAb levels were higher with the four-dose schedule [24].

The ultra-rapid vaccination course (three vaccine doses given over 3 weeks) is immunogenic and can improve completion rates in healthy adults. However, a randomised study comparing the ultra rapid-vaccine course (0, 7, and 21 days) with the typical course (0, 1, and 6 months) in HIV-positive adults found that the former had reduced immunogenicity in patients with CD4 cell counts <500 cells/ μ L [25]. The study used standard-dose vaccine; there are no data for using high-dose vaccine in an ultra-rapid schedule.

The relationship between HBsAb levels and protection has been investigated by comparing rates of HBV infection among vaccine recipients with initial HBsAb levels <10 IU/L or ≥ 10 IU/L [26]. Overall, 46/409 (11%) vaccine recipients with HBsAb <10 IU/L acquired HBV infection compared with 11/217 (5%) vaccine recipients with HBsAb ≥ 10 IU/L (hazard ratio [HR] 0.51; 95% CI 0.3–1.0). Furthermore, in participants with initial HBsAb levels <10 IU/L, 16/46 (35%) incident infections became chronic, whereas no chronic infections were detected in those with initial HBsAb levels ≥ 10 IU/L ($P=0.02$). Based upon these data, it seems desirable to attempt to induce an HBsAb response in patients who fail to respond to the primary vaccine course, as determined by measuring HBsAb levels 4–8 weeks after the last vaccine dose. As longer time to revaccination predicts non-response to revaccination, the management of non-responders should be timely [27]. Both standard-dose [27] and high-dose

[23,28] revaccination has been evaluated in HIV-positive non-responders. One study found that high-dose revaccination significantly increased HBsAb response rates (OR 4.2; CI 1.3–13.6; $P=0.018$) [28]. In two other studies, high-dose revaccination was effective in inducing HBsAb in 51% of 144 [23] and 67% of 30 [29] non-responders respectively. The data have not been consistent however. In a small randomised trial, revaccination of non-responders induced HBsAb in 60 patients (67%) receiving standard-dose revaccination, compared with 64 patients (74%) receiving double-dose vaccination, while showing no increased toxicity in the higher dose group [30].

Emerging data suggest that using one [31] or four [32] standard doses of the adjuvanted vaccine Fendrix may improve response rates among people who do not make a HBsAb response to the primary vaccine course. In one cohort study, 18/22 (82%) HIV-positive non-responders showed HBsAb levels >100 IU/L following a four-dose schedule, with an additional three (14%) subjects achieving titres of 10–100 IU/L [32].

Duration of vaccine-induced protection is unknown in HIV-positive persons, but in general terms post-vaccination HBsAb levels are lower and disappear more quickly than in HIV-negative persons. Among HIV-positive responders to HBV vaccination, the HBsAb level measured 4 weeks after the completion of the vaccination course is strongly predictive of the longevity of response [33,34]. In a cohort study of 155 HIV-positive vaccine recipients, the mean time to loss of detectable HBsAb was 2.0, 3.7 and 4.4 years for patients with HBsAb levels 10–100 IU/L, >100 –1000 IU/L, and >1000 IU/L, respectively [34]. In addition, viral load suppression on ART during vaccination and at follow-up predicts longer persistence of HBsAb levels >10 IU/L [34]. These data indicate that it is desirable to boost the HBsAb response of vaccine recipients that show HBsAb levels >10 but <100 IU/L after the primary vaccine course, with the aim improving the longevity of the response. Further boosting requirements for patients who make a response to vaccination are not well defined in immunocompromised patients. The available evidence indicates that while it may be practical to screen all immunised patients for HBsAb yearly, the frequency of HBsAb monitoring among successfully vaccinated patients could be reduced based upon the strength of the initial HBsAb response, and CD4 cell count, ART status, and viral load at vaccination and during follow-up. Consensus opinion is that booster doses are indicated in subjects whose HBsAb levels decline <10 IU/L if at ongoing risk of exposure. Importantly, vaccinated patients should continue to undergo HBV surveillance as they remain at risk of infection [26]. People receiving ART with tenofovir may be protected through antiviral prophylaxis.

8.5.1 “Occult” HBV infection and vaccination

Patients who test HBsAg negative, HBcAb positive and HBsAb negative (isolated HBcAb positivity) have traditionally posed a management challenge. These patients may belong to one of the following groups: (i) recent resolving HBV infection (HBV core IgM positive); (ii) occult HBV infection (low-level HBV DNA persistently or intermittently detectable in blood and detectable in the liver); (iii) HBsAg diagnostic escape mutants (HBV DNA levels usually high in blood in untreated patients); (iv) resolved HBV infection (strong HBcAb reactivity, possible HBeAb positivity, anamnestic HBsAb response >10 IU/L observed 1–2 weeks after a single HBV vaccine dose); and (v) false-positive HBcAb result and susceptibility to infection. While some experts recommend HBV DNA testing, HBV DNA detection in blood may be intermittent in those with occult HBV infection [35]. HBV vaccination can elicit an anamnestic HBsAb response as evidence of past infection and immunity. One study in HIV-negative patients showed anamnestic responses (HBsAb ≥ 10 IU/L) in 20/21 subjects with isolated HBcAb after one vaccine dose [36]. In contrast, studies in HIV-positive patients found an anamnestic response in 24–33% [37,38].

The HBV vaccine is safe and well tolerated in HIV-positive individuals. Injection site reactions are the most frequent side effects. HBV vaccination completion rates are closely dependent on the clinical setting providing HIV care [16], indicating that compliance should be audited regularly.

8.6 Post-exposure prophylaxis

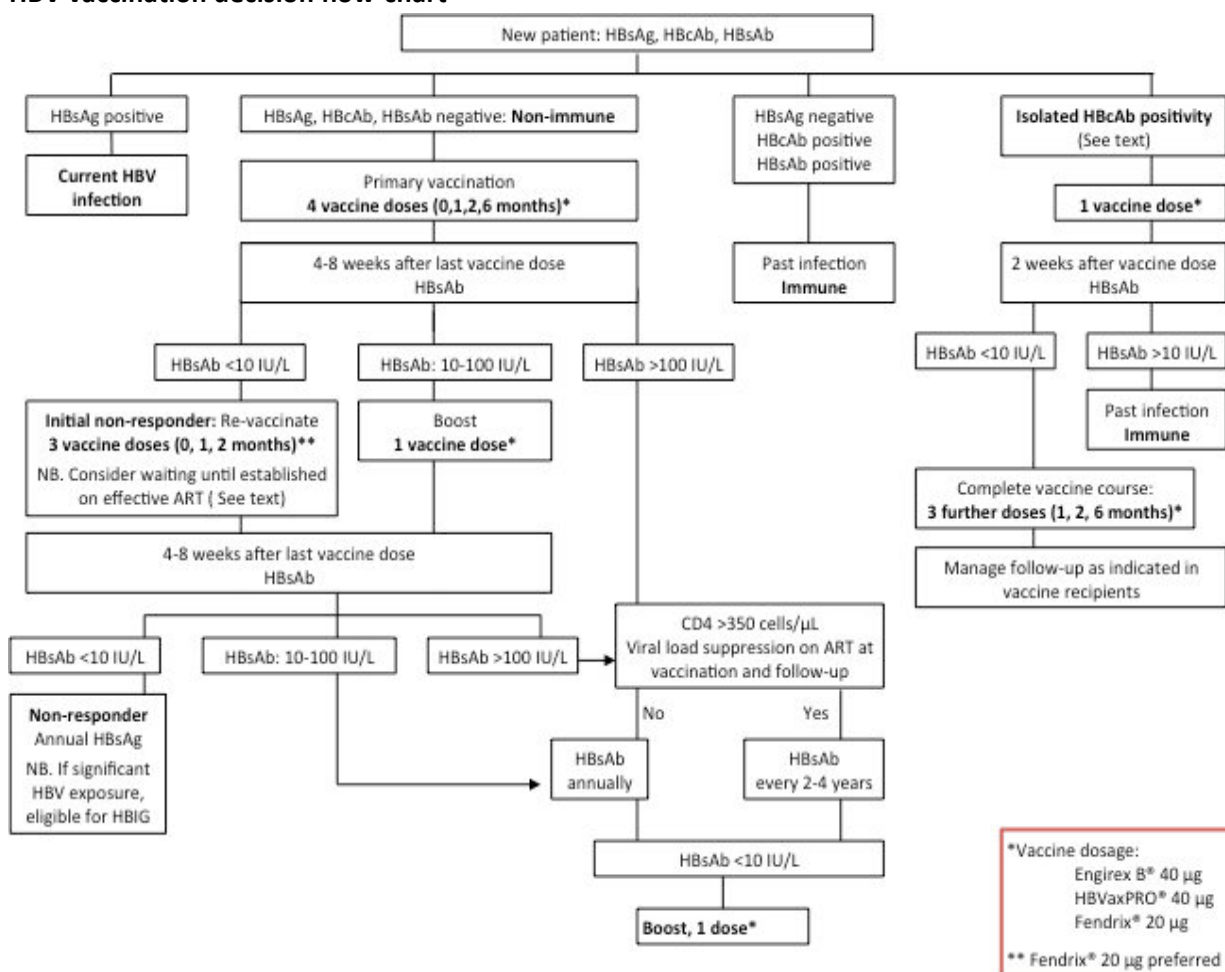
After a recognised exposure to an HBsAg-positive contact, post-exposure prophylaxis is guided by the vaccination history of the patient. Hepatitis-B-specific immunoglobulin (HBIG) can protect from infection or attenuate disease if given within 7 days of exposure. HBIG is given by intramuscular injection. A rapid (three injections given over 3 months) vaccination course started within 7 days of exposure appears to be as effective as vaccination plus HBIG in healthy persons. There are no data on the efficacy of post-exposure prophylaxis by either strategy in HIV-positive persons.

8.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults be screened for evidence of HBV infection or immunity, and that non-immune individuals (HBsAg negative, HBcAb negative, HBsAb negative) be offered HBV vaccination [1A]
 - We recommend that when using yeast-based vaccines, high-dose (40 µg) vaccination be offered [1A]. In the UK, Engerix B should be given as a double-dose (total 40 µg) [1A]; with HBvaxPRO the 40 µg formulation should be used [1B]
 - We recommend that when using the adjuvanted vaccine Fendrix the standard 20 µg formulation be given [1B]
 - We recommend that, regardless of vaccine type, four vaccine doses are given at 0, 1, 2, and 6 months [1B]
 - We recommend that an ultra-rapid vaccination course (three standard-dose administrations given over 3 weeks) be considered only in selected patients with CD4 cell counts >500 cells/µL where there is an imperative need to ensure rapid completion of vaccination and/or where compliance with a full course is doubtful [1B]. We recommend against using high-dose vaccination in an ultra-rapid schedule due to the lack of safety data [1D]
- We recommend that following completion of the primary vaccine course, HBsAb levels be measured 4–8 weeks after the last vaccine dose [1A]
- We recommend that individuals who after the primary vaccine course have HBsAb levels <10 IU/L receive three further vaccine doses at monthly intervals [1B]
 - These should be given at high dose (40 µg) with Engerix B or HBvaxPRO [1C], and standard dose (20 µg) with Fendrix [1B]
 - We suggest that revaccination with Fendrix may be preferred in non-responders [2C]
 - Retesting for HBsAb is indicated 4–8 weeks after the final vaccine dose [GPP]
 - We suggest that depending on the level of risk, revaccination of non-responders may be delayed until the viral load is suppressed on ART and the CD4 cell count has increased >350 cells/µL [2B]
- We recommend that individuals who after the primary vaccine course have HBsAb levels ≥10 but <100 IU/L receive one booster dose (see above for dosing) [1B]
 - Retesting for HBsAb is indicated 4–8 weeks after the final vaccine dose [GPP]
- We recommend that responders to HBV vaccination (HBsAb >10 IU/L after completion of a full vaccine course) undergo regular HBsAb testing in order to guide subsequent boosting requirement [1B]
 - We recommend that HBsAb screening intervals be guided by the initial HBsAb level (measured after completion of the primary vaccine course), risk of exposure, and CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load at the time of vaccination and during follow-up [1B]. Longer intervals (i.e. 2–4 years) are indicated for subjects with initial HBsAb levels >100 IU/L, CD4 cell counts >350 cells/µL, and viral load suppression on ART [1C]. Other subjects should undergo yearly HBsAb screening [1C]
 - We recommend that subjects with an initial HBsAb response who show a decline of HBsAb levels <10 IU/L are offered a booster dose (see above for dosing) [1C]

- We recommend individuals who have no evidence of protective vaccine-induced immunity have an annual HBsAg test or more frequent testing if there are known and ongoing risk factors for HBV acquisition [1B]
- We recommend patients with isolated HBcAb positivity be offered one HBV vaccine dose (see above for dosing), be tested for HBsAb 2 weeks later, and be offered completion of the vaccine course if the HBsAb level is <10 IU/L [1C]
- We recommend that compliance with HBV vaccination policy is audited regularly [1B]
- We recommend that following a high-risk exposure to an HBsAg-positive source, the HBV status of the HIV-positive contact be determined urgently if not known [1C]
 - No prophylaxis is required in those with evidence of a current or past HBV infection
 - Vaccinated patients with initial HBsAb >10 IU/L should be offered one booster dose and if the CD4 cell count is <200 cells/ μ L also receive HBIG [1C]
 - Non-responders to previous HBV vaccination (initial HBsAb <10 IU/L) should be offered a booster vaccine dose and also receive HBIG regardless of CD4 cell count [1C]
 - Patients who have not been vaccinated or have an uncertain vaccination history should be offered a rapid vaccine course (0, 1, 2 months; see above for dosing) and also receive HBIG regardless of CD4 cell count [1C]
 - When indicated, two doses of HBIG should be given 1 month apart
 - Post-exposure prophylaxis should be given within 7 days of exposure [1D]. We suggest that prophylaxis beyond 7 days (up to 6 weeks after exposure) may be considered in selected cases; specialist advice should be sought [2D]

HBV vaccination decision flow-chart



8.8 References

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9. HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS

9.1 Infection and disease

HPV establishes infection in the skin and mucous membranes. Transmission occurs through direct contact, when microtears allow the virus to invade basal epithelial cells. Most HPV infections are subclinical and resolve spontaneously. Persistence can lead to disease, including pre-malignant and malignant lesions [1]. Over 150 HPV types have been identified and are classified according to the oncogenic potential. HPV-6 and HPV-11 are non-oncogenic and responsible for about 90% of genital warts and most cases of recurrent respiratory papillomatosis. Oncogenic types cause cancers of the cervix, vulva, and vagina in women, penis in men, and anus and oropharynx in women and men [1]. Just over 60% of HPV-associated cancers are caused by HPV-16 or HPV-18; HPV types 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58 account for ~10% of cases [1–4]. Co-infection with multiple HPV types is common [5].

9.2 Epidemiology

HPV is the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection in industrialised countries. Transmission between sexual partners is common, and appears to be more frequent from females to males than from males to females. Condoms reduce the risk of infection [6], although they are not fully protective (~70% efficacy with consistent use). In women, HPV acquisition increases with age through the early 20s and then decreases, although acquisition continues in older women [7]. Men show a relatively constant incidence over a wide age range. HPV is a dominant cause of cancer worldwide. Cervical cancer remains a major health burden, particularly in less developed regions where screening and vaccination programmes are less well established. Other HPV-related cancers are increasing in incidence among both men and women [1]. There is evidence indicating that HIV acquisition is significantly associated with HPV infection [8].

9.3 HPV in HIV-positive adults

Men and women with HIV infection show an increased risk and rate of HPV acquisition and persistence, frequent carriage of multiple HPV types, and an increased risk of HPV-related disease including rapidly progressive malignancies [9–38]. HPV carriage rates and overall disease risk increase at low CD4 cell counts. However, despite effective ART HIV-positive men and women remain disproportionately affected by HPV-related anogenital disease compared with HIV-negative people. Overall prevalence of HPV-16 and HPV-18 in HIV-positive women aged 13–45 years in the United States, Brazil, and South Africa is 32% and 20%, respectively [39]. Anal HPV infection is highly prevalent in HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM). An Australian study of MSM aged 18–75 years showed a HPV-16 seroprevalence of 44%, with a seroincidence of 1.3 per 100 person/years continuing in the mid-40s [19]. A meta-analysis of 34,189 HIV-positive and 114,260 HIV-negative individuals in North America reported that between 1996 and 2007 the incidence of anal cancer per 100,000 person/years was 131 in HIV-positive MSM, 46 in other HIV-positive men, 30 in HIV-positive women, 2 in HIV-negative men, and zero in the HIV-negative women surveyed in this study [21]. The analysis reported that incidence of anal cancer was higher in ART era, which is likely to be reflecting improved survival and increased awareness and diagnosis.

9.4 HPV vaccine

Three virus-like particle (VLP) sub-unit vaccines based on the L1 capsid protein are currently in use for the prevention of HPV disease around the world [2,3]. They comprise a bivalent product (2vHPV; Cervarix, GlaxoSmithKline; HPV types 16 and 18) and a quadrivalent product (4vHPV; Gardasil 4, Merck; HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18), which were introduced in 2006 and 2007, respectively, and a nonavalent product (9vHPV; Gardasil 9, Merck; HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, 58), which was licensed by the FDA in 2014. Both vaccine types are adjuvanted. VLPs are similar in shape and size to the HPV virion, but do not contain viral DNA, and are therefore non-infectious and non-oncogenic. The

vaccines are given by parenteral administration. HPV vaccines are more immunogenic than natural infection, and highly efficacious in protecting susceptible women against cervical infection and pre-cancer related to HPV-16 and HPV-18. Protection is maintained for at least 10 years. Ongoing studies will determine whether effectiveness declines with time, and the requirement for boosters. The vaccines are also efficacious in preventing HPV-16 and HPV-18 infections at other anatomical sites in both sexes, including the precursors of vulvar, vaginal and anal cancer related to the vaccine types [2–4,40–42]. The 4vHPV and 9vHPV vaccines also reduce the incidence of genital warts associated with the vaccine types. Partial cross-protection against non-vaccine HPV types has been reported, but its effectiveness and duration is unknown. HPV vaccines are well tolerated and no safety concerns have emerged from clinical trials and post-license evaluations [43]. Non-inferiority of immune response and an acceptable safety profile have been demonstrated when the HPV vaccine is co-administered with other vaccines (assessed with meningococcal conjugate, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, combined hepatitis A/B, tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis, and inactivated poliovirus vaccines) [44].

9.4.1 General indications

In the UK, since 2008, HPV vaccination is routinely recommended for all girls aged 12–13, along with a catch up programme for girls 13 to under 18 years of age. Two vaccine doses are given to those aged 9–14 years, and three doses to those aged 15–18 years. In November 2014, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) issued an interim position statement recommending HPV vaccination with a three-dose series (0, 1–2, and 6 months) for MSM aged up to 40 years attending sexual health services after considering evidence on the impact and cost-effectiveness of a targeted vaccination programme in this group [45]. The price of the vaccine and HIV status of MSM impacted on the cost effectiveness of this recommendation. Other males of any age and women >18 years of age are not currently covered by the UK national programme, although this is under review. Gardasil (4vHPV currently) is the preferred vaccine in the UK due to the additional protection against genital warts. In February 2015, the US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended 9vHPV as one of three HPV vaccines that can be used for routine vaccination of females, whereas 4vHPV or 9vHPV are recommended for males. ACIP recommends vaccination for women up to 26 years, males up to 21 years, MSM up to 26 years, and immunocompromised persons (including those with HIV infection) up to 26 years [2].

9.4.2 Cost-effectiveness considerations

HPV vaccination has been shown to be cost-effective in pre-adolescent females. As HPV vaccines protect against HPV types not already acquired, cost-effectiveness declines with increasing likelihood of previous exposure. For women, studies differ in their conclusions about the age cut-off at which the cost-effectiveness ratio becomes unfavourable, ranging from 15 to 26 years within available data. The cost-effectiveness of vaccinating young males is generally lower than with young females, firstly because the burden of disease is lower in men than in women, and secondly because men derive benefits from female-only vaccination programmes via herd immunity, particularly if vaccine coverage is high [2–4,41,42,46]. Population-based studies in countries with high female vaccine coverage confirm a beneficial impact of herd immunity in heterosexual males; the benefit however is not extended to MSM. One US-based study addressed the cost-effectiveness of vaccinating MSM through 26 years of age, and concluded that vaccination is likely to be a cost-effective intervention for the prevention of genital warts and anal cancer in this group [46]. Outcomes were most sensitive to variations in anal cancer incidence, duration of vaccine protection, and HIV prevalence in MSM. A more recent unpublished analysis reviewed by the JCVI analysed the cost-effectiveness of vaccinating MSM up to age of 40 years [45]. In this model, cost-effectiveness was higher for 4vHPV due to the added protection against genital warts. Under the criteria used by JCVI, vaccinating HIV-positive MSM aged 16–25 years was cost-effective at the list price of the vaccine. Vaccinating HIV-positive MSM aged 16–40 years was also incrementally cost-effective under the base case assumptions. Extending vaccination to all MSM aged 16–40 years was not incrementally cost-effective when using the list price

of the vaccines. However, vaccination of all MSM aged 16–40 years was cost-effective under the criteria used by JCVI at a threshold vaccine price below the list price. The JCVI highlighted that key operational and delivery issues remain to be addressed for the programme to be considered. In US-based models assuming that 9vHPV would cost \$13 more per dose than 4vHPV, introduction of 9vHPV was cost-effective when compared with 4vHPV for both sexes [2]. Because the additional five types in 9vHPV account for a higher proportion of HPV-associated cancers in females compared with males and cause cervical pre-cancers, the additional protection from 9vHPV is expected to benefit mostly females.

9.4.3 Vaccine safety

For eligible individuals, HPV vaccination is indicated regardless of a previous history of abnormal smear test results, pre-cancer lesions likely to be HPV-associated, or anogenital warts, although the benefit of vaccination decreases with increasing likelihood of a previous exposure to the vaccine types. There are no data to support laboratory testing to exclude a prior HPV exposure before vaccination. Whilst the vaccines are not expected to have therapeutic effects, vaccination of individuals pre-exposed to the vaccine types is safe, may boost immunity, and may prevent re-infection or reduce recurrences in people with established disease [47,48]. For those with incomplete vaccination, completion of the course is indicated with the appropriate vaccine type, although there are no strict contraindications to changing the vaccine mid-course [2]. HPV vaccines are contraindicated for persons with a history of immediate hypersensitivity to any vaccine component. 4vHPV and 9vHPV are contraindicated for persons with a history of immediate hypersensitivity to yeast [2]. HPV vaccines are not recommended for use in pregnant women, as pregnant women were not included in the vaccine clinical trials. Whilst pregnancy testing is not indicated before vaccination, if a woman is found to be pregnant after initiating the vaccination series, the remainder of the three-dose series should be delayed until after pregnancy. If a vaccine dose has been administered during pregnancy, no intervention is needed. A new pregnancy registry has been established for 9vHPV and no safety signal has been identified to date. Pregnancy registries for 2vHPV and 4vHPV have been closed [2].

9.5 HPV vaccine in HIV-positive adults

In studies that have most commonly employed 4vHPV, vaccination has been shown to be safe and immunogenic in HIV-positive children [49,50]; females aged 16–23 years [51], 18–25 years [52], or 13–45 years [39]; males aged 22–61 years [53]; and males and females aged 13–27 years [54,55]. Overall seroconversion rates are high in all groups, and both seroconversion rates and antibody titres are higher than with natural infection, and highest in those receiving ART and showing high CD4 cell counts and a suppressed viral load. A study of men and women aged 13–27 years compared responses to 4vHPV in 46 HIV-negative individuals and 46 HIV-positive patients with CD4 cell counts >200 cells/ μ L (mean 715 cells/ μ L) and a stably suppressed viral load [54]. Seroconversion rates 1 month after the administration of the third vaccine dose were 91% (HIV-negative) and 85% (HIV-positive) respectively ($P=0.52$), and there was no significant difference in antibody titres. In a study of males aged 22–61 years, the proportion exhibiting seroconversion was 95% or greater for each of the four HPV types included in 4vHPV [53]. Anti-HPV 16 antibody concentrations were lower than those historically reported in HIV-negative women but similar to those reported in HIV-negative MSM, and were higher in subjects receiving ART. The median CD4 cell count at the time of vaccination was 517 cells/ μ L (IQR 423–680) in the study population, and 92% of subjects had a viral load <10,000 copies/mL; there was no impact of nadir CD4 cell count on immune responses. In a study of HIV-positive women aged 13–45 years, seroconversion proportions 1 month after the administration of the third dose of 4vHPV for HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18 were 96%, 98%, 99%, and 91%, respectively, at CD4 cell count >350 cells/ μ L; 100%, 98%, 98%, and 85%, respectively, at CD4 cell count 201–350 cells/ μ L, and 84%, 92%, 93%, and 75%, respectively, at CD4 cell count $\leq$ 200 cells/ μ L [53]. Women with viral load >10,000 copies/mL had lower rates of seroconversion. In one study of HIV-positive adults, 4vHPV was reported to induce similar antibody responses in males and females [39]. Following

vaccination, local reactions like pain, swelling and redness occur in 9% of HIV-negative and 33% of HIV-positive subjects [43], but are usually of short duration. Systemic adverse reactions may include headache (2% of HIV-negative and 14% of HIV-positive subjects [43]), and occasionally fever, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, and myalgia, but these are also short-lived. No adverse impact on CD4 cell counts and viral load have been observed in HIV-positive patients.

Studies are ongoing to demonstrate the clinical efficacy of HPV vaccines in HIV-positive individuals. Meanwhile, factors that inform the cost-benefit evaluation include (a) a high rate of HPV carriage, limiting vaccine efficacy; (b) uncertainties about the duration of vaccine-induced protection; (c) the consideration that seropositivity for all vaccine types is uncommon, indicating that at least partial protection can be achieved; (d) evidence that HPV acquisition continues in adults; (e) the high burden of disease in spite of effective ART; (f) the safety of HPV vaccines, including safety in those with established HPV infection and disease; (g) the demonstrated ability of HPV vaccines to boost natural immunity, which may reduce the risk of re-infection; and (h) a high level of willingness to be vaccinated among surveyed groups [45]. While younger HIV-positive people are likely to benefit the most from vaccination, older men and women may continue to derive at least partial benefit from vaccination.

9.6 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that previously unvaccinated HIV-positive men and women aged up to 26 years be offered HPV vaccination, regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1B]
- We recommend that previously unvaccinated HIV-positive MSM aged up to 40 years be offered HPV vaccination, regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1B]
- We suggest that previously unvaccinated HIV-positive women aged up to 40 years be offered HPV vaccination, regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [2D]
- We suggest that in ART-naïve patients with CD4 cell counts <200 cells/μL vaccination may be deferred until the patient is established on ART [2B]
- We recommend that three doses of the quadrivalent 4vHPV vaccine be administered at 0, 1–2, and 6 months [1B]. We recommend maintaining the three-dose regimen in HIV-positive patients [1A]. If the vaccine schedule is interrupted, the vaccination series should be completed rather than restarted
- We recommend that all eligible HIV-positive adults who have received fewer than three vaccine doses before the age of 18 years complete a three-dose vaccination course with 4vHPV [1C]
- We recommend that 9vHPV be used in both men and women once it becomes available in place of 4vHPV [1C]
- We suggest that HPV vaccination be considered for HIV-positive patients who develop high-grade HPV disease with the aim of potentially reducing the risk of recurrences [2C]

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10. INFLUENZA

10.1 Infection and disease

There are three types of influenza viruses – A, B and C. Influenza A and influenza B account for most cases of the disease. Influenza is highly infectious. Transmission occurs through respiratory droplets and aerosols. Severity varies from asymptomatic to fatal infections. Influenza can exacerbate underlying medical conditions and lead to serious complications. The greatest morbidity and risk for complications, hospitalisation, and death are seen in very young children, those aged ≥ 65 years, pregnant women, and patients with underlying conditions including the immunocompromised [1,2]. In 2012, the World Health Organization identified pregnant women as the highest priority group for influenza vaccination [3].

10.2 Epidemiology

Influenza A viruses undergo changes in the principal surface antigens, haemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N). Minor changes ('antigenic drift') occur progressively from season to season. Major changes ('antigenic shift') result periodically in the emergence of new subtypes that can cause epidemics or pandemics. Influenza B viruses are also subject to antigenic drift but with less frequent changes. Three influenza A pandemics occurred in the last century (1918, 1957, 1968). The most recent pandemic occurred in 2009 with a novel strain of influenza A/H1N1; a disproportionately high mortality was observed among children, young adults, and pregnant women [4]. Outbreaks of influenza A occur most years. Influenza B causes less extensive outbreaks, usually between outbreaks of influenza A. The influenza season is October–May in the northern hemisphere and April–September in the southern hemisphere. In the tropics, influenza may occur all year round.

10.3 Influenza in HIV-positive adults

HIV infection is associated with increased severity of influenza and greater risk of complications, resulting in excess hospitalisation and mortality during influenza seasons [5–14]. Effective ART reduces the rates of hospitalisations and mortality, although the risk of severe outcomes remains comparable to that of other high-risk groups for which annual influenza vaccination is recommended [15,16]. In the recent 2009 A/H1N1 pandemic, HIV-positive adults with advanced immunosuppression or co-morbid conditions were found to be at an increased risk of influenza-related complications [17].

10.4 Influenza vaccine

Influenza vaccines are prepared twice yearly using virus strains considered most likely to be circulating in the forthcoming winter (for northern and southern hemispheres), as recommended by WHO according to global epidemiological surveillance. There are two types of influenza vaccines available in the UK – inactivated and live-attenuated vaccines. Inactivated vaccines are usually multivalent. Trivalent inactivated vaccines (TIVs) typically contain two influenza A strains and one influenza B strain. Quadrivalent preparations contain one additional influenza B virus. Monovalent vaccines are prepared in response to specific epidemiological circumstances such as emergence of a shifted strain. Inactivated vaccines are most commonly made from virus grown in hen eggs. In adults, they are usually given as a single dose by intramuscular injection (or deep subcutaneous injection in those with bleeding disorders), or less commonly by intradermal injection. A live attenuated influenza vaccine for administration by nasal spray is approved for use in the UK in healthy children aged 2–18 years. Data on safety and efficacy in adults with HIV infection are lacking at present, although it seems likely that the vaccine may be given safely to adults with good immune status on ART. Studies are currently assessing numerous vaccine candidates including inactivated egg-grown and cell-culture derived subunit or whole virus vaccines, adjuvanted vaccines, and live attenuated vaccines. A high-dose (four-times higher antigen content) TIV is licensed in the US for those aged ≥ 65 years (Fluzone high-dose) [18].

In healthy adults, TIVs provide around 60% protection against virologically proven influenza infection [19]. Development of protective antibodies occurs about 2 weeks after vaccination and protection lasts for about 1 year. Although responses to vaccination are often reduced in the elderly and those with underlying conditions, vaccination can still protect against severe disease, complications such as bronchopneumonia, hospital admission, and mortality [20–23]. Inactivated influenza vaccines are safe and well tolerated and are recommended for use in pregnant and breastfeeding women [24].

10.5.1 General indications

In the UK, annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all children aged 2–4 years, those aged ≥65 years, adults and children aged over 6 months in clinical risk groups, pregnant women, and healthcare workers in direct contact with patients. Clinical risk groups include patients with:

- Chronic respiratory, heart, renal, liver, or neurological disease
- Diabetes
- Immunocompromise (including HIV infection)
- Asplenia or splenic dysfunction
- Morbid obesity

10.5 Influenza vaccine in HIV-positive adult

With inactivated influenza vaccines, antibody responses have been found to be lower in HIV-positive patients compared with HIV-negative controls, and to be correlated with CD4 cell counts and viral load [25–37]. Whilst ART improves responses, the degree of immune restoration remains unclear, with some studies indicating a persistent defect relative to HIV-negative subjects [37–44]. In one recent study, HIV infection worsened age-associated defects in antibody responses to influenza vaccine among women aged above 55 years [44]. One other study comparing HIV-positive and HIV-negative individuals suggested merely quantitative differences in the vaccine responses, thus offering a rationale for boosting strategies in the HIV-positive population [43]. In HIV-positive adults however, administering higher/more frequent doses of standard non-adjuvanted vaccine preparations has not been consistently associated with improved immunogenicity, whilst enhanced responses have been observed with novel adjuvanted preparations [40,45–55]. Data on the clinical efficacy of influenza vaccination in HIV-positive adults are limited. A previous systematic review and meta-analysis concluded that a reasonable estimate could not be derived from available data [56]. A more recent systematic review and meta-analysis set out to assess the efficacy and effectiveness of influenza vaccination in respect to the prevention of all clinical outcomes, including influenza, all-cause hospitalisation, pneumonia, and mortality [37]. Three randomised-controlled trials and three cohort studies were identified, including a total of 1562 HIV-positive individuals. In adults (but not in children), TIV prevented laboratory-confirmed influenza with a pooled efficacy of 85% (95% CI 22–97%; evidence quality: moderate); no significant effects on other clinical outcomes were demonstrable (evidence quality: moderate to low; high risk of bias detected in the cohort studies), indicating the need for further studies. A recent randomised-controlled trial of TIV in HIV-positive pregnant women demonstrated a vaccine efficacy of 58% (95%CI 0.2–82%) [42].

Inactivated influenza vaccines are safe and well tolerated in HIV-positive individuals [26–55]. Injection site reactions are the most frequent side effects. Systemic side effects are uncommon, and include allergic reactions most likely to be due to hypersensitivity to residual egg protein. The vaccines also appear to be safe when administered to HIV-positive pregnant women [42,57].

10.6 Antiviral therapy for pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis

Antiviral therapy with either oral oseltamivir or inhaled zanamivir can be used for the pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis of influenza [58]. The efficacy in HIV-positive persons is unknown.

10.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults be offered annual influenza vaccination with a parenteral non-replicating vaccine, and this includes HIV-positive pregnant women [1A]
 - We recommend the vaccine be given between September and early November [1B]. We suggest that depending on the epidemiological circumstances, there is still a potential benefit of vaccination until March [2D]
 - We suggest that a quadrivalent vaccine may be preferred where available [1D]
 - We recommend a single vaccine dose be given [1B]. There is insufficient evidence to recommend higher/more frequent doses in order to increase immunogenicity when using the inactivated influenza vaccines currently available in the UK. This area will be kept under review
- We recommend that HIV services, in partnership with primary care, devise strategies to ensure prioritised patients receive annual vaccination, such as patient recall and notification [1C]
- Pending further analyses of safety and efficacy, we recommend against the use of replicating live attenuated influenza vaccines in HIV-positive adults [1D]. This recommendation will be kept under review.
- We recommend that close contacts of HIV-positive persons be offered annual influenza vaccination, which should be preferably with inactivated rather than live attenuated vaccines where the HIV-positive person is profoundly immunocompromised [1D]
- We recommend that in identified circumstances of exposure, antiviral prophylaxis be considered for patients who are either unvaccinated or unlikely to benefit from vaccination (CD4 cell counts <200 cells/ μ L or poor match between vaccine and circulating influenza strain) if at risk of complications, particularly if profoundly immunocompromised [1D]. Expert advice should be sought

10.8 References

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11. JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

11.1 Infection and disease

Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is a mosquito-borne flavivirus [1]. Approximately 1:250 infections become clinically apparent. Severity ranges from a flu-like illness to life-threatening encephalitis. The case-fatality ratio of patients with encephalitis is 20–30%, and survivors have a 30% risk of permanent sequelae. Infection during the first or second trimesters of pregnancy can cause miscarriage. No antiviral therapy is available.

11.2 Epidemiology

JEV is a leading cause of encephalitis in Asia, mainly affecting the South-east and Western Pacific regions [1]. Infections occur predominantly in rice growing and pig farming rural areas, and occasionally in urban areas. The highest transmission rates are during and just after wet seasons, but seasonal patterns vary both within individual countries and from year to year.

11.3 JEV in HIV-positive adults

It is not known whether the natural history of Japanese encephalitis is modified by HIV infection.

11.4 JEV vaccine

Several JEV vaccines are available globally, including inactivated mouse brain-derived vaccines (no longer recommended), inactivated Vero cell-derived vaccines, live attenuated vaccines, and live recombinant (chimeric) vaccines [1,2]. The internationally licensed IXIARO vaccine is Vero cell-derived and available in the UK. The IXIARO vaccine is safe and immunogenic in healthy subjects [1,2]. The vaccine is given by parenteral administration. The IXIARO vaccine is given to adults in two doses 24–28 days apart. Following completion of the primary course, a booster is recommended after 12–24 months for those at continued risk. Responses are long-lived, and emerging data suggest that further booster doses may be scheduled 10 years following the first booster [3]. A randomised clinical trial evaluated short-term antibody responses to an accelerated course of 2 vaccine doses 1 week apart (and co-administered with rabies vaccine) in healthy persons aged 18–65 years [4]. Short-term immunogenicity with the accelerated course was non-inferior to that measured with the standard schedule.

11.4.1 General indications

In the UK, the IXIARO vaccine is offered to travellers to South and South-east Asia and the Far East if staying for a month or longer in endemic areas during the transmission season, especially if travel will include rural areas. Other travellers with shorter exposure periods are immunised if the risk is considered sufficient. The vaccine is also recommended for those who are going to reside in an area where JEV is endemic or epidemic, and for those at risk of occupational exposure (e.g. laboratory workers).

11.5 JEV vaccine and HIV-positive adults

No studies have been published on the safety, immunogenicity, and clinical efficacy of JEV vaccination in HIV-positive adults. Studies in children show that inactivated vaccines are safe and immunogenic [1]. Immune responses are reduced relative to HIV-negative children, although improved by ART [5–7]. There is insufficient evidence for modifying dosing or boosting requirements relative to standard recommendations.

11.6 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults who are at risk of JEV exposure (e.g. through travel or occupation) be offered an inactivated Vero cell-derived JEV vaccine (typically IXIARIO), with two doses given 24–28 days apart [1C]
 - We recommend against the use of an abbreviated vaccination schedule (typically two doses 1 week apart), unless there is an urgent need to complete primary vaccination prior to a risk of exposure [1C]
- We recommend that following completion of the primary course, a booster vaccine dose is offered 12–24 months later for those at continued risk, with a further booster planned after 10 years [1C]

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12. MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA

12.1 Infection and disease

Measles and mumps are paramyxoviruses, whereas rubella is a togavirus. Measles, mumps and rubella are transmitted by the respiratory route. Measles is highly communicable and carries a high risk of complications including hepatitis (60%), diarrhoea (8%), otitis media (7%), pneumonia (1–6%) and encephalitis (0.1%), leading to death in 2:1000 cases in developed countries. Up to 30% of mumps infections are asymptomatic and symptomatic infections are typically in the form of parotitis; neurological complications, usually mild aseptic meningitis, occur in up to 15% of symptomatic cases but permanent neurological sequelae are rare, including deafness (1:20,000 cases). Other complications of mumps are orchitis (20–50% of post-pubertal males) and pancreatitis (2–5%); the mortality rate is 1–3:10,000 cases. Rubella is usually a mild illness; in up to 70% of adult women it is complicated by arthralgia or arthritis. Pregnant women are at increased risk of fatal pneumonitis and miscarriage after measles and of fetal damage after rubella infection.

12.2 Epidemiology

Measles, mumps and rubella remain common diseases in many countries of the world. Patients are at risk of exposure while travelling abroad, or within the UK [1–3]. There has been a substantial increase in measles cases reported in the UK in recent years due to a reduction in vaccine coverage in children, with ongoing risk of community-wide transmission. This reflects poor herd immunity and the high secondary attack rate of measles in a susceptible population.

12.3 Measles, mumps and rubella in HIV-positive adults

There is no evidence to suggest that mumps and rubella are more severe in the HIV setting. However, measles can be life-threatening in people with advanced HIV infection [4–6]. There may be no rash, and complications such as pneumonitis and encephalitis may present several months after the initial infection. A history of measles immunisation is not a reliable predictor of measles IgG seropositive status and seropositivity does not guarantee protection [7,8].

12.4 MMR vaccine

The MMR vaccine contains replicating live attenuated viruses. The vaccine is given by parenteral administration. In adults, two doses are required to confer protection against measles, with the second dose given at any time but at least 1 month after the first. MMR is highly immunogenic and clinically efficacious in preventing measles, mumps and rubella in children [9]. Measles IgG develop in 90% of healthy subjects after one dose of MMR, and 99% after two doses. Side effects include:

- Fever and rash (5–15% of vaccine recipients), usually starting 7–12 days after vaccination and lasting 1–2 days
- Arthralgia and/or arthritis (up to 25% of women), usually mild and transient
- Transient lymphadenopathy
- Parotitis and deafness (rare)
- Clinically apparent thrombocytopenia (<1 per 30,000 doses)
- Neurological complications, including aseptic meningitis, encephalitis and encephalopathy (<1:1,000,000 doses)
- Allergic reaction; severe anaphylaxis is rare (<1:1,000,000 doses)

With the exception of allergic reactions, side effects are less frequent following the first dose and occur primarily among the small proportion of persons who did not respond to the first dose. The MMR vaccine is contraindicated in immunocompromised patients and in pregnancy, and pregnancy should be avoided for 1 month after vaccination. The vaccine is not contraindicated in breast-feeding women. MMR vaccine recipients do not act as a potential source of infection to their contacts.

12.5 MMR vaccine in HIV-positive adults

Vaccine responses are reduced in HIV-positive patients [7,10–12], although improved by effective ART [13–18]. Revaccination of previously immunised individuals following immune reconstitution on ART provides a strategy for improving seroconversion rates and magnitude and longevity of vaccine-induced responses. While the MMR vaccine is also contraindicated in persons who are severely immunocompromised, including HIV-positive patients with CD4 cell counts <200 cells/μL, it is in general safe in HIV-positive patients with less profound immunocompromise [13–18]. Prior to 1993, it was advocated for both asymptomatic and symptomatic patients. A change in policy was prompted by a case of fatal measles-vaccine-associated pneumonitis in a severely immunocompromised man, presenting almost 1 year after vaccination [19]. Vaccine-associated pneumonitis and encephalitis have also been described in severely immunocompromised patients. Serious illnesses have not been reported in HIV-positive individuals in association with mumps or rubella vaccine administration.

12.6 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Following contact with a case of measles, passive immune prophylaxis with intramuscular human normal immunoglobulin (HNIG) is indicated in selected groups, including immunocompromised patients. In most cases, an urgent (within 3 days of contact) measles IgG test is requested to decide upon the need for prophylaxis. A prophylactic dose of HNIG is not likely to benefit measles IgG-positive contacts, although patients with profound deficits of cellular immunity (typically those with primary immunodeficiency) may still benefit. HNIG is given as soon as possible after the contact, ideally within 3 days, and no later than 6 days [20,21]. In selected cases, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) may be considered up to 18 days after exposure, in which case it may attenuate rather than prevent the infection. There is no evidence to support the use of HNIG following exposure to mumps or rubella. Because of the rapid induction of the measles antibody, contacts of measles may be protected by MMR vaccination administered within 3 days of exposure. This is not the case for the mumps and rubella components. There are no data regarding the use of post-exposure MMR vaccination following measles exposure in individuals with HIV or other immunocompromised patients.

12.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults be screened for measles IgG regardless of a history of childhood vaccination [1B]
 - We recommend that measles seronegative patients with CD4 cell counts >200 cells/μL who are clinically stable are offered two doses of the MMR vaccine at an interval of at least 1 month [1B]
 - We suggest that based on the likelihood of exposure, vaccination may be postponed in patients with CD4 cell counts >200 cells/μL who are not yet established on ART [2C]
 - We recommend that in selected circumstances when measles seronegative patients are at a significant risk of exposure but cannot receive the MMR vaccine due to a low CD4 cell count, patients be offered pre-exposure prophylaxis with HNIG [1C]. Any protection afforded will be short-lived (~3 weeks)
- We recommend that after a recognised exposure to measles, HIV-positive adults be screened for measles IgG within 3 days of exposure and regardless of a history of previous vaccination (although prophylaxis should not be delayed while waiting for the results) [1C]. We recommend that a risk assessment be undertaken about the need for and mode of post-exposure prophylaxis, along the following guidelines:
 - Measles seronegative, CD4 cell count >200 cells/μL, preferably with stable viral load suppression on ART: MMR vaccine within 3 days of contact [1D] or HNIG within 6 days of contact [1C]
 - Other measles seronegative: HNIG within 6 days of contact [1C] or IVIG up to 18 days after contact [1D]

- CD4 cell count <200 cells/μL (regardless of measles IgG serostatus): HNIG within 6 days of contact [1C] or in selected high-risk cases IVIG up to 18 days after contact [1D]
- We recommend that HIV-positive women of child-bearing age are screened for rubella IgG if their rubella IgG status is unknown, and that rubella seronegative women be offered MMR vaccination provided their CD4 cell count is >200 cells/μL and they are not pregnant [1C]
 - We suggest that either one MMR vaccine dose followed 4 weeks later by repeat rubella serology and revaccination if required, or two vaccine doses 1 month apart may be considered acceptable options for rubella seronegative women who are measles seropositive [2C]. Women who are also measles seronegative should receive two vaccine doses 1 month apart [1B]

12.8 References

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13. MENINGOCOCCUS

13.1 Infection and disease

Neisseria meningitidis is a Gram-negative bacterium. There are at least 12 capsular groups including the clinically important A, B, C, Y, and W135. Around 5–11% of adults carry the bacterium in the nasopharynx in the absence of symptoms. Transmission occurs via the respiratory route during close contact and is often associated with overcrowded conditions. *N. meningitidis* is a common cause of meningitis and septicaemia in children and young adults, with a high risk of mortality or permanent sequelae. The case fatality rate is less than 10% overall. Less common manifestations include myocarditis, endocarditis, pericarditis, arthritis, conjunctivitis, urethritis, pharyngitis, and cervicitis. It is not fully understood why the disease develops in some individuals but not in others. Patients with anatomical or functional asplenia and those with complement deficiencies are at an increased risk of disease.

13.2 Epidemiology

Following the widespread use of group C conjugate vaccines, group B is now the major cause of bacterial meningitis and septicaemia in young children in Europe, and accounts for most cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) in the UK. In June 2015 Public Health England declared a national incident related to the rapid and accelerating increase in cases of IMD caused by group W [1]. In the US, groups C, B, and Y account for 35%, 32%, and 26% of isolates, respectively. Groups A and W135 are common epidemic strains in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, respectively. Proof of vaccination within the past 3 years is required for visitors arriving in Saudi Arabia for the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages. Outbreaks of meningococcal infection have been observed in university campuses, and have also been reported among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Europe and North America. In 2012, the incidence rate of IMD among MSM aged 18–64 years in New York City was 12.6 per 100,000 persons, compared with 0.16 per 100,000 persons among other males of the same age [2].

13.3 Meningococcus in HIV-positive adults

Recent data indicate that HIV-positive patients remain at increased risk of IMD in the ART era [3–5]. In an observational study from New York City, Miller *et al.* identified 263 (mostly unvaccinated) patients with IMD of whom 40 were HIV-positive [4]. HIV-positive cases differed from HIV-negative patients with IMD in being more often male, non-white, smokers, and presenting with meningococcal septicaemia rather than meningitis. The relative risk for IMD amongst HIV patients was overall 10.0 (95% CI 7.2–14.1), and increased in those with CD4 cell count <200 cells/μL and viral load >400 copies/mL. Similar results were obtained from an observational study in South Africa, which indicated also that patients with HIV had double the risk of death [5]. HIV infection alone is not currently an indication for meningococcal vaccination [6].

13.4 Meningococcus vaccine

Different types of meningococcal vaccine are currently available including a polysaccharide vaccine (no longer recommended for routine use), conjugate vaccines, and multicomponent vaccines. The conjugated vaccines MenC and MenACWY are directed against group C and groups A, C W, and Y, respectively. The multicomponent MenB vaccines are directed against group B. The choice of vaccine is related to age, epidemiological circumstances, and previous vaccination history. The vaccines are given by parenteral administration. Meningococcal vaccines are highly immunogenic and effective; they induce serogroup-specific protection. Fever and injection site reactions are the most common adverse events reported. More serious complications are very rare.

13.4.1 General indications

Indications for meningococcal vaccination are evolving rapidly in the UK. MenC is part of the infant vaccination programme and is also indicated for adults aged less than 25 years who have never received the vaccine, received the last MenC vaccine dose before 10 years of age, or have an uncertain vaccination history. In March 2015, the 4CMenB vaccine was included in the UK infant vaccination programme, but no routine use has yet been indicated for those over 11 years of age. In June 2015, MenACWY was recommended for adolescents and university entrants. MenC, MenACWY, and/or MenB are also indicated for patients at risk of disease, mainly comprising those with asplenia, splenic dysfunction or complement disorders (including those on complement inhibitor treatment). MenACWY is indicated for travellers that are at recognised risk based on itinerary, duration of stay and planned activities. In North America, targeted vaccination of MSM has been recommended in some states. Vaccination is also used during outbreaks of meningococcal infection with vaccine serogroups to reduce the number of secondary cases.

13.5 Meningococcus vaccine in HIV-positive adults

Several reports of adequate serological responses to meningococcus vaccination are available, generally showing better responses in those with less advanced disease, and no major adverse reactions [7–11]. The immunogenicity and safety of MenACWY in HIV-positive children and young adults (aged 2–24) has been reported from the P1065 study in the USA [8–10]; one study in Brazilian children reported on the immunogenicity and safety of the MenC vaccine [11]. In the P1065 study, response rates to a single vaccine dose varied from 55% to 86% across the different serogroups, with higher response rates in younger children and those with higher CD4 cell counts and lower viral load. Response rates increased with a second dose of vaccine. In the Brazilian study, the response rate to a single dose of MenC vaccine was 72%, increasing to 81% when non-responders received a second dose. In both of these studies adverse events were rare and compatible with studies in HIV-negative subjects.

13.6 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Close contacts of confirmed cases of meningococcal infection are offered antibiotic prophylaxis (e.g. ciprofloxacin) and appropriate vaccination.

13.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults follow the general indications for meningococcal vaccination and be offered vaccination where indicated [1B]. The categories and recommended vaccine currently comprise:
 - Those aged <25 years of age who have not been previously vaccinated, have uncertain vaccination history, or received the last MenC vaccine below the age of 10 years – MenC [1B] and MenACWY [1B], and possibly MenB [1C], according to national guidance
 - Have functional or anatomical asplenia or persistent complement component deficiency – MenC, MenB, and/or MenACWY, according to vaccination history [1B]
 - Are at risk of exposure through travel – MenACWY [1B]
 - Are at risk of exposure through an outbreak – MenC [1B], MenB [1C], or MenACWY [1B], according to the epidemiological scenario, and including MSM who may be exposed to outbreaks due to residence, travel, or social interactions
- We recommend that HIV-positive patients are offered two vaccine doses at the interval of 2 months in order to increase immunogenicity [1C]
- We recommend that patients receiving MenACWY are offered a booster dose every 5 years if at ongoing risk through travel or due to underlying conditions [2C]
- This guidance should be interpreted in the context of national epidemiological data and applied according to the evolving national vaccination programme [GPP]

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults who are close contacts of meningococcal disease be offered antibiotic prophylaxis and appropriate vaccination [1C]

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14. PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)

14.1 Infection and disease

Whooping cough is a highly contagious disease of the respiratory tract usually caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. A similar illness can be caused by *B. parapertussis* but this is not preventable with available vaccines. The infection is transmitted through direct close contact with a case, and vaccination provides the most effective prevention strategy. Protection afforded by vaccination or from past infection is not life-long [1]. Disease severity ranges from mild to life-threatening, and infants and young children are most at risk of complications. Older children and adults who have previously had disease or been vaccinated may still become infected but usually have mild disease.

14.2 Epidemiology

In the UK the introduction of routine vaccination against pertussis in 1957 resulted in a marked reduction in pertussis notifications and deaths, and pertussis control has been good since the 1990s during a sustained period of high coverage [2]. Pertussis activity increased considerably from late 2011 leading to a national outbreak being declared in April 2012. Most cases were in previously vaccinated adolescents and young adults but the highest incidence of morbidity and mortality occurred in unvaccinated infants. Public health action has identified two target groups: those who are vulnerable to suffering severe disease (young infants) and those who are at risk of transmitting the infection to vulnerable individuals [1]. In October 2012 a temporary programme was introduced to offer pertussis vaccination to pregnant women, ideally between 28–32 weeks of pregnancy, with the aim of protecting infants through intrauterine transfer of maternal antibodies. In June 2014 the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised that this temporary programme should continue for at least a further 5 years as pertussis continues to circulate at heightened levels.

14.3. Pertussis in HIV-positive adults

Pertussis has been diagnosed in HIV-positive children and adults, and should be considered as a cause of respiratory disease in persons with HIV [3–7]. However, pertussis is not generally considered an opportunistic infection amongst immunocompromised individuals [1] and current evidence does not suggest that pertussis is common among persons with HIV or that they are more likely to be a reservoir for *B. pertussis* in the community.

14.4 Pertussis vaccine

Pertussis vaccines licensed in the UK are inactivated acellular vaccines made from highly purified components of *B. pertussis*, and are only available as part of combined products:

- (1) diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis/inactivated polio vaccine/
Haemophilus influenzae type b (DTaP/IPV/Hib) – for primary immunisation in children
- (2) diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis/inactivated polio vaccine/ (DTaP/
IPV or dTaP/IPV) – for pre-school boosters
- (3) diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis/inactivated polio vaccine (dTAP/
IPV) – for adults requiring vaccination, including pregnant women

The vaccines are given by parenteral administration. Pertussis vaccines are safe and immunogenic in immunocompetent adults. Vaccination does not induce lifelong immunity, and the possible need for boosters in adolescence is under review. Vaccination is generally well tolerated [7]. Injection site reactions are common and may occur more frequently following subsequent doses.

14.4.1 General indications

Pertussis vaccination is not available for individuals aged ≥ 10 years, except in pregnancy or as part of outbreak control. For adults, including pregnant women, a vaccine containing low dose diphtheria and tetanus is preferred. Since 2014, Boostrix-IPV (dTaP/IPV) is the vaccine offered for the prenatal programme. Repevax (dTaP/IPV) may be a suitable alternative, whereas Infanrix-IPV is used only in exceptional circumstances when neither Boostrix-IPV nor Repevax (dTaP/IPV) is available. Pregnant women are offered a single vaccine dose not earlier than 28 weeks and ideally between week 28 and week 32 of pregnancy. The vaccine will act as a reinforcing dose and is offered in every pregnancy regardless of prior vaccination status. Vaccination after week 38 is unlikely to provide passive protection to the infant but would potentially protect the mother from pertussis infection and thereby reduce the risk of exposure to her infant.

14.5 Pertussis vaccine in HIV-positive adults

After vaccination, antibody titres are lower in HIV-positive children compared to HIV-negative children, and correlate with the CD4 cell count [6]. No data on the efficacy of the pertussis vaccine in HIV-positive adults are available. There is no evidence of increased risk of side effects or adverse reactions to vaccination in individuals with HIV infection.

14.6 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Antibiotic prophylaxis (usually with macrolides) – to be started within 21 days of onset of cough in the index patient – is indicated for all asymptomatic household contacts of a suspected, epidemiologically linked, or confirmed pertussis case. Secondary attack rates are high, even when household contacts are current with vaccinations. Antibiotic prophylaxis may also be indicated for contacts who are at high risk of severe disease or are likely to come in contact with a person at high risk (e.g. pregnant women in the third trimester). Vaccination may also be considered for those who have been offered antibiotic prophylaxis.

14.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommended that HIV-positive adults who meet general indications for pertussis vaccination and including HIV-positive pregnant women be offered one dose of the dTaP/IPV vaccine regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1C]
- We recommended that HIV-positive adults who are in contact with case of pertussis are considered for antibiotic prophylaxis and vaccination in line with standard recommendations [1C]

14.8 References

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15. PNEUMOCOCCUS

15.1 Infection and disease

Streptococcus pneumoniae, or pneumococcus, is a Gram-positive bacterium. There are over 90 serotypes and although all can cause infections, a few serotypes account for most cases of disease [1]. Infection is acquired through direct person-to-person contact via respiratory droplets and by autoinoculation in persons carrying the bacteria in their upper respiratory tract. Pneumococci may be isolated from the nasopharynx of healthy persons in the absence of disease. The rate of asymptomatic carriage varies with age, environmental factors, and the presence of other infections of the respiratory tract. HIV-positive adults and children tend to have higher carriage rates. The mechanisms that control the healthy carrier state vs. invasive disease are poorly understood. Pneumococci can cause: (i) upper respiratory tract infections (e.g. otitis media and sinusitis); (ii) pneumonia and other lower respiratory tract infections; and (iii) invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD), including bacteraemia and meningitis; the latter is frequently complicated by neurological sequelae. Pneumococcal case fatality is high, up to 15% in pneumonia and 30% in meningitis.

15.2 Epidemiology

Pneumococcal disease occurs throughout the world, although geographically there is wide variation in the incidence of IPD. The greatest burden of disease is in developing countries. In the UK infections are more common during the winter and in early spring. The pneumococcus is the most frequent bacterial co-infection associated with influenza. Rates of antibiotic resistance are increasing in many parts of the world and susceptibility to penicillin, cephalosporin and macrolides can no longer be assumed. Penicillin resistance is present in 5% of UK isolates with a similar proportion of macrolide resistant isolates. This has little impact on management of respiratory infections, but penicillin cannot be used to manage meningitis when resistance is present. Pneumococcal infection is a major contributor to mortality among young children in developing countries. Pneumococcal disease is also common in children in developed countries, but in these settings mortality is seen predominantly in those aged ≥ 65 years and adults with underlying conditions [2], including:

- alcoholism
- cancer (particularly haematological malignancy)
- chronic cardiovascular disease
- chronic pulmonary disease (e.g. chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or emphysema, but not asthma)
- chronic liver disease (cirrhosis)
- chronic renal disease
- diabetes mellitus
- absent or non-functioning spleen (e.g. sickle cell disease)
- hypogammaglobulinaemia
- malnutrition
- immunocompromise, including HIV infection

15.3. Pneumococcus in HIV-positive adults

Pneumococcus infection is a significant cause of pneumonia and IPD in HIV-positive persons [3,4]. Disease can occur early in the course of HIV infection and may recur. Paediatric serotypes are frequently involved and close contact with children is a recognised risk factor for infection. Risk factors for severe disease include low CD4 cell counts, African race, injecting drug use, smoking, a previous AIDS-defining diagnosis, previous pneumonia, chronic illness (i.e. lung, heart, liver, or kidney disease), and alcoholism [5–8]. The annual attack rate of pneumococcal bacteraemia was as high as 1% among persons with AIDS [9]. The incidence of IPD has declined with effective ART [10,11] but HIV-positive

adults remain at an approximately 40-times higher risk of disease compared with age-matched HIV-negative adults. Major risk factors for IPD are similar to those reported in HIV-negative individuals and include associated co-morbidity, prior hospitalisation with alcoholism, and current smoking as prominent [12]. Compared with HIV-negative adults, HIV-positive persons show an increased risk of mortality after controlling for age and severity of presentation, and the risk is related to the CD4 cell count. With an increasing proportion of associated co-morbidities in ageing HIV-positive populations (e.g. cirrhosis, chronic pulmonary disease) case-fatality has tended to increase in recent years.

Universal vaccination with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) was introduced into the UK paediatric vaccine schedule in 2006; PCV-7 initially including serotypes 4, 6B, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F and 23F; and in 2011 PCV-13 added the serotypes 1, 3, 5, 6A, 7F, 19A. These vaccines have had a dramatic impact on the epidemiology of pneumococcal disease. Not only have they been highly effective at preventing disease from the vaccine serotypes in the vaccinated children, but also there has been a reduction in disease caused by vaccine serotypes in all age groups as a consequence of herd protection. This has however been offset by an increase in disease caused by non-PCV serotypes. In the US, a net reduction in IPD in HIV-positive adults of around 25% was attributed to paediatric PCV use with only about 8% of IPD disease caused by PCV-7 serotypes 5 years after introduction [13]. The pattern has been similar in the UK with PCV-7 serotypes dramatically reducing as a cause of disease [8]. Recent UK surveillance among adults with IPD has also shown a fall in the six additional serotypes included in PCV-13. At the present time, the proportion of IPD cases caused by PCV-13 serotypes in HIV-positive adults is unclear, although it is likely to be falling. The burden of non-bacteraemic pneumococcal pneumonia is believed to be 5–10-times greater than the IPD burden. The contribution of PCV-13 serotypes to this syndrome is less clear due to difficulties of measurement, but is also likely to be falling as a result of reduced community transmission.

15.4 Pneumococcal vaccine

Two different vaccines have been developed: the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV) and the pneumococcal protein-conjugated vaccine (PCV). Both vaccine types have a license in the UK for use in adults and are given by parenteral administration.

- PPV-23 is composed of purified preparations of pneumococcal capsular polysaccharide from 23 different serotypes, which has traditionally accounted for around 90% of cases of IPD. PPV-23 has been available in the UK for much of the last 30 years. It is given as a single dose by subcutaneous or intramuscular injection.
- PCV vaccines were specifically designed for use in infant populations where pure polysaccharide vaccines fail to induce protective immune responses. Immunogenicity is improved by attaching the pneumococcal polysaccharide to a “carrier” protein. Two preparations are available: a 13-valent preparation (PCV-13) and a 10-valent preparation (PCV-10). PCV-13 has been evaluated in adult populations. No adult studies have been reported with PCV-10.

No serious safety concerns have been identified with either PPV-23 or the PCVs. Injection site reactions occur in 30–50% of PPV-23 vaccine recipients but usually resolve within 48 hours. Local reactions are reported more frequently following a second dose of PPV-23 than after the first dose, especially if fewer than 3 years have elapsed since the first injection. Systemic reactions with fever and myalgia occur uncommonly (<1%) and more serious adverse events are very rare. Reactions to the PCVs may be more common than with PPV-23 but the serious adverse event profile is similar. Contraindications to vaccination include:

- PPV-23: vaccination given within the previous 3 years
- PCV: Previous serious adverse reaction to PCV

15.5 Vaccine efficacy

The efficacy of pneumococcal vaccines has been the subject of significant debate. In the case of PPV there have been a limited number of randomised controlled trials (RCT) and large number of observational studies with significant variation in reports of efficacy, particularly in those reported from outside the US. In the case of PCV, there is a much smaller literature, although this includes two RCTs with consistent results.

15.5.1 PPV-23: immunogenicity

More than 80% of healthy young adults who receive PPV-23 develop antibodies against the serotypes contained in the vaccine, usually within 2–3 weeks. In older adults and persons with underlying conditions, responses are often reduced or absent. HIV-positive adults produce significantly lower peak levels and durability of response compared to HIV-negative adults. The functional quality of antibodies produced in HIV-positive adults in response to PPV is also significantly impaired in comparison to HIV-negative adults. ART use has not been shown to convincingly improve response to PPV-23 [14–19]. The degree of immunodeficiency as measured by CD4 cell count may also affect immunogenicity [15,20]. HIV-positive patients with CD4 cell counts <500 cells/ μ L have shown lower responses than patients with higher CD4 cell counts [21], although this effect is not consistent across reports [22–24]. Routine boosting is not recommended in immunocompetent individuals previously vaccinated with the PPV-23 vaccine. However revaccination after 5–10 years of the first dose is part of general guidance for the use of PPV-23 in specific risk groups. Repeat doses of PPV in HIV-positive adults however produce attenuated antibody responses [25]. Recent studies in thalassaemic patients have suggested a dose-dependent attenuation in pneumococcal memory responses with repeat doses of PPV [26]. Importantly, the relationship between antibody levels and protection from IPD is not certain in adult populations.

15.5.2 PPV-23: clinical efficacy

Overall, PPV-23 is estimated to be approximately 60% effective in preventing IPD in otherwise healthy older adults, but is less or ineffective in those groups that also have the greatest risk of disease. PPV-23 efficacy against non-bacteraemic pneumonia has not been demonstrated unequivocally. Several meta-analyses have shown that vaccination reduced bacteraemic pneumococcal pneumonia in low-risk adults, but did not show efficacy against non-bacteraemic pneumonia and in high-risk groups [27–30]. Studies on the clinical efficacy of pneumococcal vaccination in HIV-positive adults have reported inconsistent findings. Most have been conducted in persons not receiving ART or receiving suboptimal mono and dual therapy. In the only randomised controlled trial, the vaccine showed no efficacy in reducing the risk of pneumococcal disease among Ugandan HIV-positive persons not taking ART [31]. Surprisingly, there was a borderline increase in pneumonia of any cause in vaccine recipients (HR 1.89, 95% CI 1.1–3.2). Follow-up reports showed a persistent excess of ‘all-cause’ pneumonia in vaccine recipients – although a small survival advantage was also observed in this extremely high mortality study [32].

Ten observational studies of varying size and quality have been reported evaluating PPV-23 in routine use against a pneumococcal disease end-point, six from the USA [5,6,33–36], two from Spain [37,38], one from Brazil [39], and one from Taiwan [15]. Six studies reported varying effectiveness (20–79%) against IPD; two studies reported 20–35% effectiveness against pneumonia. Within these studies effectiveness was associated with higher CD4 cell counts (>200 or >500 cells/ μ L) [5,33,36], non African-American race [6], and viral load <100,000 copies/mL [36]. In the six studies able to evaluate ART use, five confirmed this as independently protective against pneumococcal disease (50–77% effective) with only one study showing no independent protective effect [36]. None of the studies was able to demonstrate an impact of ART use on PPV-23 efficacy. The underlying confounding associated with vaccine receipt and risk of pneumococcal disease remains problematic when interpreting these observational studies. There are no studies reporting clinical end-point efficacy with repeat PPV-23 use in HIV-positive adults.

15.5.3 PCV

PCV is a highly effective paediatric vaccine, which is now in use in most developed countries following a series of successful RCTs. As noted above, the introduction of these vaccines has led to dramatic changes in pneumococcal disease epidemiology through herd protection effects. A large-scale trial of PCV-13 in approximately 85,000 over 65-year-old HIV-negative Dutch residents was recently completed [40]. In this study a single dose of PCV-13 reduced vaccine serotype IPD by 75%.

15.5.4 PCV: immunogenicity

Serological studies of PCV confirm its immunogenicity in HIV-positive adults. However responses are reduced when compared to HIV-negative adults [41,42] and demonstrable superiority of PCV response over PPV response may be limited to certain serotypes [43–49]. Durability of serological response appears to be enhanced by ART usage [50,51] and repeat dosing elicits a better response than with repeat doses of PPV [52].

15.5.5 PCV: clinical efficacy

The vaccine is effective in HIV-positive children, reducing the risk of vaccine serotype IPD by 60–65% and the risk of clinical lower respiratory tract disease by 15% [53]. A randomised placebo-controlled trial of PCV-7 in HIV-positive Malawian adults who had recovered from IPD, reduced vaccine serotype IPD by 74% [54]. In this study efficacy was unequivocally demonstrated at CD4 cell counts <200 cells/ μ L. The study was not powered to assess the interaction with ART or duration of response. Most participants received vaccine prior to commencing ART and efficacy was not measurable 12 months after vaccination. The study used a two-dose schedule with vaccinations given 1 month apart. Serological assessments suggest that the second dose of vaccine may provide little if any benefit over a single dose.

15.5.6 PCV + PPV

Only serological studies are available to inform this approach to vaccination. Serological responses to PCV serotypes are increased by boosting with either PCV or PPV in the majority of published studies [42,43,45,47,48]. There are no studies to support the effectiveness of this approach to prevent disease end-points.

15.6. Pneumococcal vaccine in HIV-positive adults

The most robust evidence for the use of pneumococcal vaccines in HIV-positive adults relates to PCV use. The conjugated vaccines are immunogenic and have proven to be clinically effective in RCTs including one undertaken in HIV-positive adults with low CD4 cell counts. A strong recommendation based on these data would be justified for vaccine to be given at all CD4 cell counts with or without ART, and with or without co-morbidities that would increase pneumococcal disease risk. However, with the routine use of PCV in the infant vaccine programme, the burden of pneumococcal disease attributable to PCV-13 serotypes is now falling. With a large herd protection, the clinical effectiveness of this approach may become increasingly limited as disease burden falls. There is a clear research need to determine the burden of IPD and non-bacteraemic pneumonia caused by PCV-13, PPV-23, and non-vaccine serotypes among HIV-positive populations in the UK, in order to inform vaccination practices.

15.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults receive a single dose of PCV-13 irrespective of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1B]. This recommendation will be reviewed in light of the evolving epidemiology of PCV-13 type pneumococcal disease in the UK.
 - PCV-13 should be given at least 3 months after any use of PPV-23

- We suggest that HIV-positive adults who meet the indications for PPV-23 vaccination within the national programme (typically aged >65 years or with co-morbidity other than HIV) follow general guidance and also receive a single dose of PPV-23 [2C]
 - PPV-23 should be given at least 3 months after any PCV-13
- We recommend against repeat PPV-23 or repeat PCV-13 dosing [1C]

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16. POLIOMYELITIS

16.1 Infection and disease

Poliomyelitis is caused by poliovirus serotypes 1, 2 and 3. Polioviruses are neuroinvasive enteroviruses that are spread by the faecal-oral and respiratory routes. Most infections are subclinical, but a minority give rise to neurological manifestations including aseptic meningitis, encephalomyelitis, and the poliomyelitis syndrome, characterised by the acute onset of flaccid paralysis. The live attenuated oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) is shed asymptotically in the stool of vaccine recipients for several days; shedding may be prolonged in immunocompromised persons, which may allow reversion to virulence and give rise to vaccine-associated paralytic polio (VAPP) in vaccine recipients or their contacts.

16.2 Epidemiology

Poliomyelitis continues to occur in only a few countries and is now exceedingly rare in the UK. The last indigenous case of wild-type infection was in 1984, with the last imported case in 1993. Travellers going to certain parts of Africa and Asia may be at risk for polio.

16.3 Poliomyelitis in HIV-positive people

No specific data are available on wild-type poliomyelitis in HIV-positive persons. HIV-positive children – including those who are mildly to moderately symptomatic – retain the ability to clear enteroviruses, including vaccine-related poliovirus, and do not appear to be at increased risk of prolonged OPV shedding relative to HIV-negative children [1,2].

16.4 Polio vaccine

Replicating live attenuated OPV is no longer available in the UK, having been replaced in 2004 with the trivalent (serotypes 1–3) enhanced inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) in all routine vaccine schedules. The vaccine is given to adults in combination with tetanus and diphtheria toxoid (Td/IPV). The vaccine is given by parenteral administration. IPV is highly immunogenic. Antibodies to all three poliovirus serotypes develop in >90% of healthy recipients after two doses and in >99% after three doses. The duration of immunity conferred by IPV is not known. A total of five vaccine doses at the appropriate intervals (as per the UK childhood vaccination schedule) are considered to give lasting immunity, with reinforcing doses recommended every 10 years for those at risk. The vaccine is well tolerated. Injection site reactions are common but usually self-limited and may occur more frequently following subsequent doses. Fever and other systemic reactions are uncommon. Severe systemic reactions are rare.

16.4.1 General indications

The aim of the UK national vaccination programme is to ensure that all individuals receive at least five vaccine doses. Td/IPV is recommended for vaccination of those aged ≥10 years. Adults who are either unvaccinated or have an uncertain vaccination history are advised to receive primary immunisation with three vaccine doses at either monthly intervals or at 0, 1–2 months, and 6–12 months [3]. Two further doses are scheduled 5 and 10 years after the last dose. Adults who have received partial vaccination are advised to receive the remaining doses, regardless of the interval since the last dose and type of vaccine previously received. It is also recommended that travellers to areas that pose a risk of exposure should ensure they are fully vaccinated.

16.5 Polio vaccine in HIV-positive adults

Both OPV and IPV can elicit neutralising antibody responses in HIV-positive children and adults, and in patients with CD4 cell counts <300 cells/μL [4–9]. The seroprevalence of poliovirus-neutralising

antibodies varies among HIV-positive adults. HIV-positive patients born and resident in the UK since 1962 will have generally received a complete five-dose vaccine course as part of routine childhood immunisation. High prevalence rates, comparable to those in normal controls, have been reported in some cohorts. However, in a seroepidemiological study of Italian drug users, those with HIV infection were more likely to lack protection, with 34% seronegative for poliovirus type 3 and 11% lacking neutralising antibodies to all three virus types [10]. OPV is contraindicated in patients with HIV and their contacts. IPV can be administered safely to immunocompromised adults.

16.6. Post-exposure prophylaxis

Following inadvertent administration of OPV, exposure to a close contact given OPV, or exposure to wild-type poliovirus, immunocompromised patients can receive post-exposure prophylaxis with intramuscular human normal immunoglobulin (HNIG). A serum should be collected for baseline serology testing, but prophylaxis should not be delayed pending the results. HNIG is not indicated if the patient is known to be antibody-positive to all three poliovirus types. Stool samples are collected 1 week apart for analysis. If poliovirus is detected, administration of HNIG is repeated at 3-weekly intervals until two consecutive stool samples test negative. Intravenous immunoglobulin may be considered if intramuscular injections are contraindicated.

16.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults who require vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, or polio be given the Td/IPV vaccine in accordance with general indications, and regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1B]
 - We recommend that individuals who are either unvaccinated or have an uncertain vaccination history receive three vaccine doses at monthly interval (or at 0, 1–2, and 6–12 months) followed by two reinforcing doses after 5 and 10 years, whereas partially vaccinated individuals should complete the five-dose vaccine course [1B]
 - We recommend that fully vaccinated individuals (five doses) receive a booster dose every 10 years if at risk of exposure, typically through travel [1C]
- We recommend that individuals who may be occupationally exposed to poliovirus (e.g. laboratory workers) be tested for specific antibodies 3 months after vaccination to confirm protective immunity and revaccinated if required [1C]
- We recommend that HIV-positive patients who are exposed to OPV or wild-type polio are considered for post-exposure prophylaxis with HNIG, based on considerations of vaccination history, CD4 cell counts, viral load, ART status, and poliovirus serology [1C]

16.8 References

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17. RABIES

17.1 Infection and disease

Rabies is caused by viruses of the *Lyssavirus* genus, including the classic rabies virus genotype 1 and other related viruses (e.g. European bat lyssaviruses [EBLV] and Australian bat lyssavirus [ABLV]). Rabies is transmitted by contact with a rabid animal, generally as the result of a bite or scratch [1–3]. Transmission may also occur when infectious material, such as saliva or aerosolised secretions from an infected animal, comes into contact with mucous membranes or abraded skin, or on rare occasions through inhalation of virus-containing aerosol. Virus may be present in the saliva of patients with rabies, but person-to-person spread of the disease has not been documented, with the exception of a few cases of transplant-associated transmission from donors unsuspected of having rabies [4]. Rabies classically presents as an acute encephalomyelitis and less commonly with an ascending flaccid paralysis. In both forms, coma and death follow almost invariably although a few cases of survival have been described [5].

17.2 Epidemiology

Human rabies is common in most developing countries, where it occurs in both urban and rural areas [1–3]. In the majority of industrialised countries human rabies is rare, mainly because of oral vaccination of wildlife and mandatory vaccination of domestic animals. No case of indigenous human rabies from terrestrial animals has been reported in the UK since 1902. An indigenous case of EBLV infection occurred in 2002 in a bat handler who was bitten by a bat and did not receive pre- or post-exposure rabies prophylaxis. Animal rabies is widespread in every continent except Antarctica. In Asia, Africa, and parts of Latin America both stray and domestic dogs remain the principal vector and transmitter of rabies to humans. Canine rabies is endemic throughout most of these regions, and 90% of human cases with a defined source are caused by exposure to dogs, usually in the form of bites. Rabies reservoir species include wild mammals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, and insectivorous bats in North America; vampire bats and mongooses in Central America; jackals, hyenas and mongooses in Africa; wolves, foxes, and insectivorous bats in Europe; and fruit bats in Australia. In some parts of the world, other domestic and wild mammals such as cats and monkeys may transmit infection. In the UK, EBLVs have been detected in Daubenton's bats [6]. Public Health England (PHE) provides indications of rabies risk by country [7]. Prevention through vaccination prior to exposure is available but underused, and disease prevention mostly relies on rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (rabies-PEP) [8]. The number of people requiring rabies-PEP has increased in recent years in the UK, and is almost 900 per year in England and Wales, of which 10% in people potentially exposed to bats in the UK and 90% potentially exposed overseas.

17.3 Rabies in HIV-positive adults

It is not known if the natural history of rabies is modified by HIV infection.

17.4 Rabies vaccine

Human rabies vaccines are inactivated. Vaccines commonly available in Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand are cell culture-based and include the human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV), the purified chick embryo cell vaccine (PCECV), and the purified Vero cell rabies vaccine (PVRV) [9]. HDCV and PCECV are available in the UK. Vaccines of nerve tissue origin are still in use in some developing countries, but are reactogenic and some are of low immunogenicity; these are not generally recommended, although they are still preferable to no vaccine. Rabies vaccines are administered intramuscularly (or subcutaneously if bleeding disorders); the standard schedule is with three vaccine doses given at 0, 7, and 28 (or 21) days. Intradermal administration of smaller vaccine doses is used in some developing countries, but is generally not recommended. In pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis, cell culture-based vaccines administered through the intramuscular route induce a

satisfactory antibody response in approximately 95% of healthy recipients, with rare failures; responses are usually maintained for at least 10 years. Although associated with mild and transient reactions, cell culture-derived rabies vaccines are considered safe [10]. Injection site reactions occur in 30–74% of vaccine recipients, whereas mild systemic reactions are reported in 5–40%.

17.4.1 Serology testing

A rabies-neutralising antibody level ≥ 0.5 IU/mL, as per World Health Organization guidelines, is considered the minimal adequate response indicating unequivocal seroconversion [11]. There are strict indications for serological testing in order to guide vaccine use, and those eligible in the UK include vaccine candidates who have had a severe reaction to a previous vaccine dose, people with regular and continuous exposure to rabies, and those in whom vaccine immunogenicity may be reduced including HIV-positive individuals. Rabies serology is available at selected UK laboratories and advice can be obtained through the PHE Rabies clerk on +44 (0) 20 8327 6204 or through the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Rabies Help Line (+44 (0) 1932 357345 or (0) 1932 341111).

17.4.2 General indications for pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis in healthy individuals

Pre-exposure rabies vaccination is offered in the UK to the following categories:

- At continuous risk of exposure: laboratory workers (three vaccine doses, serology testing after the primary course and every 6 months thereafter, booster vaccine dose if antibody titre falls below 0.5 IU/mL)
- At frequent risk of exposure: bat handlers, persons who regularly handle imported animals, animal control and wildlife workers, veterinary staff or zoologists who travel regularly in rabies enzootic areas, health workers in rabies enzootic areas who will be at risk of direct exposure to body fluids or tissue from a patient with confirmed or probable rabies (three vaccine doses, booster vaccine dose at 1 year, then a booster vaccine dose every 3–5 years, or based on serology results where available)
- At occasional risk of exposure: travellers to rabies enzootic areas, especially if post-exposure medical care and rabies biologics at the destination are lacking or in short supply, or they are undertaking higher risk activities such as cycling or running, or they are living or staying for more than 1 month (three vaccine doses, booster dose considered at 10 years post-primary course if the risk recurs; serology not generally offered). It should be noted that an Australian study called into question such selection criteria, based on a case series indicating that most injuries occurred within 30 days of arrival in a rabies-endemic region, most were injured whilst participating in common tourist activities, more than a third did not initiate contact with animals, and the most common injury sites were hands and fingers – high risk sites for rabies transmission due to rich nerve supply [12].

17.5 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Management consists of wound treatment and risk assessment for appropriate rabies-PEP, taking into account the circumstances of the exposure, including the local incidence of rabies in the species involved and the immune status of the person. Detailed guidance has been published by PHE [9]. Contact details for specialist advice in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland are listed in the Green Book (www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85762/Green-Book-Chapter-27-v3_0.pdf). For head and neck bites, treatment should ideally be started within 12 hours of reporting; for other exposures treatment should be started ideally within 24 hours. Because the incubation period for rabies can be prolonged, treatment should be considered whatever the interval from exposure. Rabies-PEP initiated at an early stage is nearly 100% effective in preventing rabies, but delayed or incomplete treatment results in human deaths, often associated with severe lesions on or near the head or hand.

Rabies vaccine is the mainstay of rabies-PEP, and the aim is to achieve an antibody titre of ≥ 0.5 IU/mL, as per WHO guidelines [11], as quickly as possible. Individuals with no prior vaccination or with an incomplete or uncertain vaccination history are offered five vaccine doses at 0, 3, 7, 14, and 30 days. Individuals that have received a full primary course of a cell culture-based vaccine are offered two vaccine doses at 0 and 3–7 days. Human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) is employed in selected cases, and is usually given within 7 days post-initiation of rabies vaccination in individuals who were not fully vaccinated pre-exposure. The entire HRIG dose (20 IU/kg) is infiltrated, if anatomically possible, in and around the site of exposure, with any remaining solution administered intramuscularly at a site different from that used for the vaccine. Reactions with HRIG include local pain and low-grade fever, but no serious adverse reactions have been reported. In developing countries, equine rabies immunoglobulin (ERIG) is sometimes used, which has a higher incidence of adverse effects and may vary in quality.

In the US and Australia the full vaccine course for rabies-PEP consists of four vaccine doses (at 0, 3, 7, and 14 days), with a fifth dose offered (day 28) only in the case of immune impairment (through disease or treatment) [12].

17.6 Rabies vaccine in HIV-positive adults

There are limited data on the immunogenicity and clinical efficacy of rabies vaccines for pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis in HIV-positive patients. Available evidence indicates that vaccine immunogenicity is influenced by the CD4 cell count and viral load, with low or absent antibody responses reported in some patients with CD4 cell counts <200 – 250 cells/ μ L [13–17] or even with CD4 cell counts >500 cells/ μ L [9]. Effective ART has been shown to restore antibody responses to vaccination [18]. Approximately 88% of subjects with CD4 cell counts >450 cells/ μ L while receiving stably suppressive ART (6 months) develop a protective antibody response to three doses of a cell culture-based vaccine [19]. The duration of responses is reduced relative to HIV-negative persons, and is affected by ART discontinuation [18,19]. Higher (double) and more frequent vaccine doses, and combined intradermal and subcutaneous vaccine administration have been proposed as management options for HIV-positive patients who fail to mount an acceptable antibody response, but data are limited [12]. Whether the intradermal route may be more effective at producing an immune response in HIV-positive patients than intramuscular vaccine remains unclear [20]. Current opinion is that caution is needed in assessing HIV-positive patients after a potential rabies exposure even when immunocompromise is thought to be mild [12]. In the few studies reported, rabies cell culture-based vaccines were well tolerated in HIV-positive persons [12–17], including when vaccines were used at double the standard dose [12].

17.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

17.7.1 Pre-exposure prophylaxis for travellers

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults who are at risk of rabies exposure through travel be counselled about pre-exposure prophylaxis and offered vaccination with a cell culture-derived vaccine as indicated [1B]
 - We recommend three vaccine doses be given intramuscularly on days 0, 7, and 28. Advancing the third dose to day 21 is not recommended because it may curtail the immune response [1B]
 - We recommend that patients be counselled about the risk of poor vaccine immunogenicity, which is reduced although not abolished in patients with CD4 cell counts >500 cells/ μ L who are receiving stably suppressive ART [1B]
 - We recommend that patients at increased risk of vaccine failure (based upon CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load) undergo rabies serology testing 2–4 weeks after the last vaccine dose, and if the antibody response is <0.5 IU/mL be offered a booster vaccine dose, followed

by repeat serology testing [1C]. We suggest that the booster may be given at double the standard dose to increase immunogenicity [2C]

- We recommend that if the risk of travel-related exposure recurs, a first booster be offered 1 year after completion of the primary vaccine course, and subsequent boosters be given every 3–5 years or based on the results of serology testing where indicated [1C]
- We recommend travellers be advised that vaccination does not eliminate the need for wound management and post-exposure vaccination [GPP]

17.7.2 Pre-exposure prophylaxis for those at continuous or frequent exposure in the occupational setting

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults with CD4 cell counts >200 cells/ μ L and stable viral load suppression on ART be offered pre-exposure rabies vaccination with three doses of a cell culture-derived vaccine given intramuscularly at 0, 7, and 28 days [1C]. We recommend that such patients undergo rabies serology testing 2–4 weeks after the last vaccine dose, and if the antibody response is <0.5 IU/mL be offered a booster vaccine dose, followed by repeat serology testing [1B]. We suggest that the booster may be given at double the standard dose to increase immunogenicity [2C]. Exposure must be avoided in those who fail to mount an acceptable antibody response after the booster dose [GPP]
- We recommend that in patients at continuous risk of exposure who have an initial response to vaccination, subsequent booster doses are guided by serology testing performed every 6 months as per national guidance [1C]
- We recommend that in patients at frequent risk exposure who have an initial response to vaccination, subsequent booster doses be guided by serology testing performed at regular intervals [1C]. We recommend that in such patients the frequency of serology testing may vary between 1 and 3 years, and be guided by the CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load at the time of vaccination and during follow-up [1C]
- We recommend that patients with CD4 cell counts <200 cells/ μ L avoid continuous or frequent exposure to rabies [1C]

17.7.3 Post-exposure prophylaxis

- We recommend that each case be assessed individually following expert advice, because responses to rabies vaccination may be reduced even in patients with mild immunodeficiency [1B]
- We recommend that the following patients are regarded as non-immune and offered five doses of a cell culture-derived vaccine given intramuscularly at 0, 3, 7, 14, and 30 days, together with HRIG [1C]:
 - Previously unvaccinated
 - Previously given partial vaccination (<three doses)
 - Previously given complete vaccination (three doses) not followed by serological evidence of an adequate antibody response
 - Uncertain vaccination history
 - CD4 cell count <500 cells/ μ L and not receiving stably suppressive ART
- We suggest that patients who previously received a complete vaccine course (three doses) followed by serological evidence of an adequate antibody response, and with a CD4 cell count >500 cells/ μ L and stable viral load suppression (>6 months) on ART at the time of vaccination and during subsequent follow-up may be managed with two intramuscular vaccine doses given at 0 and 3–7 days and without HRIG [2D]
- We recommend that all patients undergo serology testing 2 weeks after the last vaccine dose to determine responses to vaccination and that non-responders are offered double-dose and/or more frequent vaccine doses accordingly [1C], and are considered for combined intradermal and subcutaneous double-dose vaccine administration [1D]

17.8 References

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18. SMALLPOX

18.1 Infection and disease

Variola virus, a member of the Orthopoxviridae, causes smallpox. The infection is spread through droplets and aerosol and the most common mode of transmission is through face-to-face contact with an infectious individual [1]. The fatality rate is ~25% overall, and severe complications such as blindness can occur. Following a worldwide vaccination campaign, smallpox was declared eradicated from the world in 1980 and routine vaccination was stopped. The last naturally occurring case in the world was in Somalia in 1977. Vaccine programmes were later restarted in several countries (e.g. in the military or healthcare workers) in response to a hypothetical threat from bioterrorism [1–3]. In the UK, people who were vaccinated against smallpox prior to national programmes being discontinued (i.e. most people born before 1971) will have some level of protection [4,5]; the vaccine is currently available for selected individuals who may come in contact with orthopox viruses through their occupation (e.g. laboratory workers). Some governments have stockpiled smallpox vaccines for deployment in case of intentional or accidental release [2,3].

18.2 Smallpox vaccine

Replicating smallpox vaccines such as ACAM2000 are prepared with live vaccinia virus, which is closely related to the smallpox virus, and administered percutaneously via scarification in the skin of the upper arm [2,3]. Virus replication at the injection site produces a major cutaneous reaction or "take", which indicates a successful immune response. Primary vaccination is administered in a single dose; a booster dose is recommended after 3 years. People who have received two doses are likely to be protected for at least 10 years. A non-replicating vaccine based on modified vaccinia Ankara (Imvanex) was approved in 2013 for use in adults, including HIV-positive patients [6]. The approval was granted under 'exceptional circumstances' due to lack of clinical data. Imvanex is derived from a vaccinia virus strain that was attenuated through multiple passages in tissue culture and lost the ability to replicate in mammalian cells. The primary course for previously unvaccinated individuals consists of two doses given by subcutaneous administration at least 1 month apart. Two doses are also recommended for previously vaccinated patients who are immunocompromised. There are inadequate data to determine the need for and appropriate timing of further booster doses. Imvanex does not produce a visible cutaneous reaction following administration. In healthy persons, smallpox vaccines are highly effective in inducing protective immunity [2,3,6]. The protective efficacy of Imvanex against smallpox has not been studied [6].

18.3 Vaccine safety

Replicating smallpox vaccines have been associated with side effects ranging from frequent benign events to rare but life-threatening complications. Among vaccine recipients, 36% become sufficiently ill to miss work, school, or recreational activities or to have trouble sleeping [2]. In a smallpox vaccination campaign conducted in healthcare workers in Arkansas in 2003, there was a 2% adverse event rate and a 0.5% hospitalisation rate [7]. Myopericarditis is a recognised complication [8]. It is reported to occur in 5.7 of 1000 primary vaccine recipients; most cases are mild and self-limited with few documented reports of dilated cardiomyopathy [3]. Other serious adverse events include encephalitis, encephalomyelitis, encephalopathy, progressive vaccinia, generalised vaccinia, severe vaccinia skin infections, erythema multiforme major (including Stevens–Johnson syndrome), and eczema vaccinatum (severe and destructive infection of skin affected by eczema or other chronic skin disorder caused by spread of vaccinia virus). Permanent sequelae or death, ocular complications, blindness, and fetal death have occurred following either primary vaccination or revaccination with replicating smallpox vaccines [3]. Inadvertent transfer from the site of inoculation causes swelling, tenderness and rash at the site of transfer, and may result in vaccinia keratitis and subsequent corneal scarring. Progressive vaccinia is characterised by a slow and uncontrolled growth of vaccinia virus at

the site of inoculation, frequently complicated by viraemia and generalised infection involving skin and multiple organs, with a 40–80% risk of mortality; it usually occurs in the presence of immunodeficiency. Death is most often the result of encephalitis or progressive vaccinia.

A vaccinated person can transmit the vaccine virus directly through contact with the injection site and indirectly through objects that come in contact with the area around the vaccination site, including clothes, bedding, bandages and furniture. Infectivity lasts until the vaccination wound has healed and the scab has fallen off, usually within 14–21 days.

Contraindications to replicating smallpox vaccines include:

- Pregnancy and breast-feeding. The overall risk associated with maternal smallpox vaccination appears low. Fetal vaccinia is a rare consequence but is associated with a high rate of fetal loss [9]
- Current or past eczema and atopic dermatitis, or a current significant skin condition
- Heart disease, or at least three known major cardiac risk factors
- Immunodeficiency caused by disease or treatment (including HIV infection)
- The vaccines are generally not recommended for those >65 years of age

Imvanex appears to be safe and well tolerated and does not increase the risk for development of myopericarditis [3,10]. The most common adverse reactions observed in clinical trials were injection site reactions and mild to moderate systemic reactions that resolved without intervention within seven days following vaccination. Imvanex is preferable for individuals at increased risk of adverse events with replicating smallpox vaccines in circumstances when the risk for smallpox is minimal and a delay in the onset of immunity (relative to using the replicating vaccine) would not increase this risk to an unacceptable level [3]. As a precautionary measure, use is avoided during pregnancy and breastfeeding unless it is considered that the possible benefit in terms of preventing smallpox would outweigh the potential risk.

18.4 Smallpox vaccine in HIV-positive adults

Although the safety of the replicating vaccine ACAM2000 has not been studied in persons with HIV infection, HIV-positive persons with low CD4 cell counts are at risk of progressive vaccinia when vaccinated with replicating smallpox vaccines [11–13]. In a study of 10 military recruits with a mean CD4 cell count of 483 cells/ μ L (range 286–751) the replicating vaccine was well tolerated and immunogenic [13]; however, there is one case report of progressive vaccinia in a HIV-positive military recruit who received smallpox vaccination in 1984 with a CD4 cell count <25 cells/ μ L [12]. The non-replicating vaccine Imvanex was well tolerated and highly immunogenic in 91 HIV-positive patients with CD4 cell counts $\geq$ 350 cells/ μ L and viral load <400 copies/mL, with no vaccine-related serious adverse events and an overall safety profile comparable to that of uninfected subjects [14]. LC16m8, a replicating smallpox vaccine licensed in Japan, shows reduced virulence in animal studies and has been proposed as a potential option for immunocompromised patients [15]. This remains controversial however as clinical data are lacking [16]. In 2014, the World Health Organization specifically indicated that Imvanex should be considered for use, where approved, in individuals for whom replicating smallpox vaccines are contraindicated due to immunocompromise [17].

In the past, high doses of intravenous vaccinia immunoglobulin (VIGIV) derived from immunised individuals appeared to be effective in halting a proportion of cases of progressive vaccinia. The experience with VIGIV for the treatment of progressive vaccinia in persons with AIDS is limited to one reported case [12]. Antiviral drugs such as cidofovir (or others in advanced stages of development such as liposomal cidofovir, tecovirimat or brincidofovir) are recommended for the treatment of complications [3], although clinical data are scarce.

18.5 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Persons exposed to smallpox are at high risk for developing smallpox and transmitting the virus to others. Vaccination with replicating smallpox vaccines given within 3 days of exposure prevents disease or reduces its severity; partial protection is observed if post-exposure prophylaxis is started after 4–7 days of exposure. There are no absolute contraindications to the use of replicating smallpox vaccines in this setting [3]. Whilst persons with atopic dermatitis (eczema), HIV infection with CD4 cell counts of 50–199 cells/ μ L, other immunocompromised states, and persons with vaccine or vaccine-component allergies are at higher risk for adverse events, replicating vaccines still are recommended in these groups as the risk of severe smallpox is considered higher than the risk of vaccine-related adverse events [3]. Although persons vaccinated with Imvanex have a lower risk for serious adverse events, protection is less certain also considering the requirement for two doses given at least 1 month apart. Persons with severe immunodeficiency, including HIV-positive patients with CD4 cell counts <50 cells/ μ L, are not expected to benefit from vaccination and can be managed with appropriate antivirals, or Imvanex when antivirals are not immediately available [3].

18.6 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that all vaccine candidates are informed that smallpox vaccines might pose a serious risk to people with HIV infection, and that HIV testing is offered prior to vaccination to those who wish to be tested [1B]
- We recommend that for vaccine candidates who are HIV-positive, an assessment is made of the risk of contracting smallpox vs. the risk of vaccine-related side effects, using the CD4 cell count as a guide to inform vaccine use [1B]
- We recommend that in cases where vaccination is indicated but there is no urgency to induce a rapid immune response (e.g. most occupational settings) HIV-positive adults regardless of CD4 cell counts receive the non-replicating smallpox vaccine Imvanex, with two doses given subcutaneously at least 1 month apart [1B]
- We recommended that in selected scenarios where there is urgency to induce a rapid immune response, patients with CD4 cell counts ≥ 200 cells/ μ L may be offered a replicating smallpox vaccine followed by close monitoring for adverse events [1C]
- We recommend that following exposure, patients with CD4 cell counts >50 cells/ μ L are offered vaccination with a replicating smallpox vaccine given preferably within 3 days and up to 10 days after the exposure [1C]. We suggest that in similar circumstances patients with CD4 cell counts <50 cells/ μ L are unlikely to respond to vaccination and should be managed by appropriate antiviral therapy, although there is no absolute contraindication to Imvanex vaccination [2C]. Expert opinion should be sought
- We recommended that vaccine recipients who experience vaccine complications should receive VIGIV and/or appropriate antiviral therapy according to availability [1C]. Expert opinion should be sought
- We recommend that HIV-positive persons avoid close contact with recipients of replicating smallpox vaccines as they may spread the vaccine virus through direct or indirect contact with the vaccine reaction site [1C]

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19. TETANUS

19.1. Infection and disease

Tetanus is caused by the action of a neurotoxin (tetanospasmin) released by the Gram-positive, anaerobic bacterium *Clostridium tetani* [1,2]. The bacterium and its spores are found primarily in the soil and intestinal tracts of animals and humans. Transmission occurs when spores are introduced into the body, typically through puncture wounds, burns and scratches, but also through trivial, unnoticed wounds, injecting drug use and occasionally abdominal surgery. Tetanus spores are widely distributed in soil or manure and may be introduced to a wound easily following an injury. The spores can also be found on skin surfaces and in contaminated heroin and drug paraphernalia. In the presence of anaerobic conditions, the spores germinate and the toxins are produced and released systemically. Tetanus is not contagious from person to person. Tetanus-prone wounds or burns include those that require surgical intervention and when that treatment is delayed for more than 6 hours; show a significant degree of devitalised tissue; are a puncture-type injury particularly in contact with soil or manure; contain foreign bodies; are compound fractures; or occur in patients who have systemic sepsis. In its most common manifestation, tetanus is characterised by generalised rigidity and spasms of skeletal muscles and can lead to respiratory and cardiac failure. The case fatality ratio is 29% overall, but ranges from 8% to 90%. Recovery from tetanus may not result in immunity, and vaccination following tetanus is indicated.

19.2 Epidemiology

Tetanus occurs worldwide but is most common in densely populated regions in hot, damp climates with soil rich in organic matter. Tetanus has occurred only rarely among persons who had previously received a primary vaccine course. The proportions of persons lacking protective levels of circulating antitoxins against tetanus increase with age; at least 40% of those aged >60 years may lack protection. Between 2001 and 2012, 88 cases of tetanus were reported in the UK, mostly in individuals aged ≥45 years who had not been appropriately immunised [2]. In 2003–2004 a first cluster of cases of tetanus occurring in young injecting drug users (IDUs) was identified (case fatality 8%). Following this cluster, only sporadic cases of tetanus were reported in IDUs in England to the end of 2014 [2,3].

19.3 Tetanus in HIV-positive adults

In a US cohort of HIV-positive patients, 94% of those born in the US had evidence of tetanus immunity at the time of HIV diagnosis, whereas only 55% of those born outside the US had a positive tetanus antibody test [4]. It is not known whether the natural history of tetanus is modified by HIV infection.

19.4 Tetanus vaccine

The tetanus vaccine is non-replicating and is made from cell-free purified toxin extracted from *C. tetani* and converted into tetanus toxoid. The vaccine is given to adults in combination with diphtheria toxoid and inactivated polio vaccine (Td/IPV). The vaccine is given by parenteral administration. The tetanus vaccine is highly immunogenic and effective. Although antitoxin levels decrease with age, the majority of vaccinated adults maintain protective antitoxin levels for many years. A total of five vaccine doses at the appropriate intervals (as per the UK childhood vaccination schedule) are considered to give lifelong immunity, with reinforcing doses recommended every 10 years for those at risk. The vaccine is well tolerated. Injection site reactions are common but usually self-limited and may occur more frequently following subsequent doses. Fever and other systemic reactions are uncommon. Severe systemic reactions are rare.

19.4.1 General indications

The aim of the UK national vaccination programme is to ensure that all individuals receive at least five vaccine doses. Td/IPV is recommended for vaccination of those aged ≥ 10 years. Adults who are either unvaccinated or have an uncertain vaccination history are advised to receive primary immunisation with three vaccine doses at either monthly intervals or at 0, 1–2 months, and 6–12 months. Two further doses are scheduled 5 and 10 years after the last dose. Adults who have received partial vaccination are advised to receive the remaining doses, regardless of the interval since the last dose and type of vaccine previously received. It is also recommended that travels to areas where access to post-exposure prophylaxis may be limited ensure they are fully vaccinated.

19.5 Tetanus vaccine in HIV-positive adults

The vaccine has been shown to be immunogenic in a variety of immunocompromised hosts including HIV-positive adults, although less so than in HIV-negative persons [5–10]. In HIV-positive children, serological response rates are 60–100% after primary vaccination and 75–90% after booster vaccination [10]. Children show lower serum antitoxin levels compared to controls, and antibody levels deteriorate such that non-immune levels may be reached in less than 5 years [11]. Adults who received full primary vaccination before acquiring HIV infection may have sufficient humoral immunity for several years and are likely to develop protective levels of antitoxin following a booster dose. However, this response is lower in patients aged >50 years and those with a history of AIDS [12]. As a general rule, responses are inversely correlated to the CD4 cell count and immunity improves after successful ART [13]. There is no reported increased risk of side effects or adverse reactions in individuals with HIV infection.

19.6 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Tetanus vaccine and human tetanus immunoglobulin (TIG) are used for post-exposure prophylaxis in cases of potential exposure, and used according to the vaccination history and type of wound. Use of TIG is guided by recommendations set out in the Green Book (www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/148506/Green-Book-Chapter-30-dh_103982.pdf). Efficacy in HIV-positive persons has not been established.

19.7 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive adults who require vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, or polio be given the Td/IPV vaccine in accordance with general indications, and regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, and viral load [1B]
 - We recommend that individuals who are either unvaccinated or have an uncertain vaccination history receive three vaccine doses at 1 month intervals, followed by two reinforcing doses after 5 and 10 years, whereas partially vaccinated individuals should complete the five-dose vaccine course [1B]
 - We recommend that fully vaccinated individuals (five doses) receive a booster dose every 10 years if at risk of exposure, typically if they are due to travel to areas where they may not be able to receive post-exposure prophylaxis in the event of a tetanus-prone injury [1C]
 - We suggest that the interval between booster doses may be shortened to 5 years in patients older than 50 years [2C]
- We recommend that following a potential exposure, HIV-positive contacts receive post-exposure prophylaxis according to the type of exposure, the vaccination history, and the CD4 cell count [1C]
 - Subjects with uncertain or incomplete (fewer than three doses) vaccination history: three vaccine doses at monthly intervals, regardless of type of wound and level of risk
 - Subjects who have previously received at least three vaccine doses with clean wound and negligible risk: one vaccine dose if the last dose received was >10 years previously

- Subjects who have previously received at least three vaccine doses with tetanus-prone wound: one vaccine dose if the last dose received was >10 years previously or with CD4 cell count <200 cells/mL
- Subjects with high-risk tetanus-prone wounds should also receive TIG, and it is recommended that a careful assessment is made of the likely immunogenicity of vaccination as the sole mechanism of protection in patients with poor immune function and a significant risk of exposure [1B]

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20. TICK-BORNE ENCEPHALITIS

20.1 Infection and disease

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) is an acute febrile syndrome that can become complicated with neurological symptoms ranging from mild meningitis to severe encephalomyelitis [1]. It is caused by the tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV), which is a Flavivirus. TBEV can be divided into three main subtypes: European (TBEV-Eu), Siberian (TBEV-Sib), and Far Eastern (TBEV-Fe). Other types also circulate [2]. The infection is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected tick or, less commonly, by ingestion of unpasteurised milk from infected animals, mainly goats. Person-to-person transmission has not been reported. Only about one-third of those with symptomatic infection develop neurological complications, which may lead to death (1–2% or higher with certain subtypes) or sequelae (10–20%).

20.2 Epidemiology

TBE is an emerging international public health problem [3]. TBE is the most common tick-transmitted disease in Central and Eastern Europe and Russia, and is endemic in 27 European countries. Infections also occur in the former Soviet Union and Asia [2]. In the UK, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal and Malta no autochthonous TBE cases have been registered to date. Climate, social, economic, and demographic changes are thought to have promoted the expansion of the endemic region of TBE viruses [3]. There are two seasonal peaks in Europe, one in May/June and the second in September/October. Infections are related to either leisure activities such as hiking, walking, and hunting, or working in agriculture and forestry in warm, rural or forested parts of endemic regions. Vaccination remains the most effective protective measure against TBE for people living in risk zones, occupationally exposed subjects, and travellers to endemic areas [2,4–6]. The risk of infection among unvaccinated travellers to a highly endemic region is calculated to be 1/10,000 [2]. For countries at very high risk of TBE infection, introduction of universal TBE vaccination in children >1 year of age onwards has been advocated. For countries with a very low risk of TBE, vaccine recommendations apply to those traveling to endemic areas [2,5,6].

20.3 TBE in HIV-positive adults

It is not known whether the natural history of TBE is modified by HIV infection.

20.4 TBE vaccine

Two non-replicating whole killed vaccines are currently in use in Europe: FSME-Immun and Encepur, which are given by parenteral administration. Three doses are recommended, at 0, 1–3, and 6–12 months [2]. Accelerated schedules can be implemented in emergency situations (0 and 14 days, followed by a third dose 5–12 months after the second). Booster doses are indicated every 3–5 years, although immunity is likely to last for longer [2]. The two vaccines are interchangeable. TBE vaccines are highly immunogenic in adults, with seroconversion rates close to 100% after three doses, and cross-protection against different subtypes [2,4–7]. The rapid vaccination schedule has been shown to elicit similar rates of seroconversion in healthy individuals and is practical for travellers; antibody titres are lower and decline more rapidly than with the conventional schedule and therefore the rapid schedule is best suited for short-term travellers. The TBE vaccine is well tolerated. Injection site reactions are the most frequent side effects. The vaccine however is contraindicated in those with severe allergy to eggs. The vaccine has been suspected of causing an exacerbation of autoimmune diseases, but a cause-and-effect relationship has not been confirmed; a risk assessment should be made before administering the vaccine in these conditions.

20.5 TBE vaccine in HIV-positive adults

Two published studies have investigated the immunogenicity of TBE vaccination in HIV-positive patients [8,9]. These studies suggest that the vaccine is less immunogenic than in HIV-negative persons, particularly at CD4 cell counts <400–500 cells/ μ L, although a four-dose vaccine course (given at 0, 1, 2, and 9–12 months) may improve responses. The duration of protection in HIV-positive persons is unknown, but may be reduced compared to healthy individuals; however, there is insufficient evidence to guide a change in boosting recommendations. A neutralising antibody response >126 Vienna Units/mL is considered to be protective. Post-vaccination testing is not recommended routinely in healthy individuals, but may be considered in some immunocompromised persons at risk of exposure in order to guide booster requirements. Whether rapid schedules are effective in HIV-positive persons is unknown. The TBE vaccine is safe and well tolerated in HIV-positive individuals with CD4 cell count >200 cells/ μ L [8,9; H. Kollaritsch and M. Peallabauer, personal communications).

20.6 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive patients who intend to walk, camp, or work in heavily forested regions of TBE-affected countries during late spring or summer be offered TBE vaccination, particularly if staying in areas with heavy undergrowth [1B]. The vaccine is also recommended for expatriates whose principal area of residence is an area where TBE is endemic and this should be according to local vaccination programmes [1B]
 - We recommend that four vaccine doses be offered in order to improve responses, and these should be given at 0, 1, and 2 months (primary course), followed by a fourth dose at 9–12 months [1B]
 - We recommend that the decision to offer a rapid vaccination schedule (two doses 2 weeks apart, followed by a third dose 5–12 months later) be based upon an evaluation of risk of exposure and urgency, taking into account that responses may be reduced in patients with CD4 cell counts <400 cells/ μ L [1C]
- We recommend that a booster vaccine dose is offered every 3–5 years to those at continued risk, with the shorter interval preferred for patients with CD4 cell counts <400 cells/ μ L [1C]
- We suggest that where available serological testing for specific antibodies may be used to guide boosting requirements [2C]

20.7 References

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21. TYPHOID FEVER

21.1 Infection and disease

Salmonella is a Gram-negative bacillus transmitted by the faecal-oral route [1]. Thousands of serotypes are recognised, and most cause non-invasive infections of the gastrointestinal tract. Typhoid fever is an invasive infection caused by *S. typhi*, *S. paratyphi* A, B and C, and in HIV-positive individuals other *salmonella* species, also cause invasive infections which may present as enteric fever. Disease severity varies, but untreated infection carries a 12–30% risk of mortality. Deaths are rare in treated persons (2% or less). Up to 10% of patients with typhoid fever excrete the organism for 3 months following the acute illness. A chronic carrier state, with excretion of *S. typhi* for more than 1 year, occurs in approximately 1–6% of individuals.

21.2 Epidemiology

The incidence of typhoid fever per 100,000 people ranges from <0.1 cases/year in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia to 725 cases/year in sub-Saharan Africa [3]. Paratyphoid incidence ranges from 0.8 cases/year in North Africa/Middle East to 77 cases/year in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The adjusted estimate for the burden of typhoid fever accounting for the low sensitivity of blood cultures for diagnosis is about 27 million episodes. In the UK most cases follow travel to endemic areas; about 7% of cases occur in individuals with no relevant travel history. Travellers to Asia, Africa, and Latin America who have prolonged exposure to potentially contaminated food and drink are especially at risk of infection [1,2,4]. In these regions, the attack rate for travellers has been estimated at 10 per 100,000 travellers. Increasing resistance to available antibiotics, including fluoroquinolones, is being reported. Multidrug-resistant strains of *S. typhi* have become common in the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East and some African countries [5–7]. Typhoid vaccination is an important component of typhoid fever prevention and control, and is recommended for travels and in public health programmes in both endemic and outbreak settings. Vaccination is currently only available against *S. typhi*.

21.3 Typhoid fever in HIV-positive adults

HIV-positive patients are at increased risk of infection with *Salmonella*, and immunodeficiency predisposes patients to bacteraemia, antibiotic resistance, relapsing disease, and persistent infection [8–14]. In residents of endemic countries, particularly in Africa, disease is predominately due to non-typhoidal *Salmonella* (NTS), rather than *S. typhi*. The burden of NTS in HIV-positive adults is declining with the roll-out of ART [15]. Whether the disease manifestations of typhoid fever among HIV-positive persons differ significantly from those observed in HIV-negative persons is uncertain.

21.4 Typhoid vaccine

Available vaccines comprise the injectable non-replicating Vi capsular polysaccharide vaccine (ViCPS), the oral replicating live attenuated Ty21a vaccine, and the injectable non-replicating typhoid conjugate vaccine [TCV] [16–18]. These vaccines do not protect against *S. paratyphi* or NTS infection. An NTS vaccine is under development [17]. TCVs have only recently become available and experience remains limited [16]. ViCPS is 38–80% protective in healthy people after a single dose [16,17,19], with boosters recommended every 3 years for those at risk. There are no major safety concerns with the ViPS vaccine in healthy individuals from endemic or non-endemic countries [16–19]. Injection site reactions occur in up to 7% of ViCPS recipients and usually resolve within 48 hours. Systemic reactions such as headache and fever occur in up to 20% and 1% of vaccinees respectively. Anaphylaxis and other serious adverse reactions are rare. There are no major safety concerns with the Ty21a vaccine in healthy people. However, the Ty21a vaccine should not be co-administered with antibacterials or antimalarials as these may impair efficacy.

21.4.1 General indications

The vaccine is indicated for travellers to areas that pose a risk of exposure.

21.5 Typhoid vaccine in HIV-positive adults

In HIV-positive persons, the induction of protective antibodies is impaired, particularly in patients with CD4 cell counts <200 cells/ μ L [20]. The duration of protection may also be reduced in HIV-positive persons. None the less, there is no evidence for dose or interval modification. Whether the Vi-conjugate vaccine when it becomes available will be more effective in this population is currently unknown. The ViCPS vaccine is safe for HIV-positive persons. Although there have been no reports of adverse events [21] the Ty21a vaccine is contraindicated in immunocompromised persons, including HIV-positive patients [13].

21.6 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive patients who are due to travel to areas in which there is a recognised risk of exposure to *S. typhi* be offered the parental ViCPS vaccine [B1]
 - Efforts should be made to offer vaccination to those at particularly high risk of exposure: visitors to friends and relatives; long-term travellers; and those with likely exposure to poor sanitary conditions [B1]
 - These patients should receive one vaccine dose at least 2 weeks before expected exposure [C1]
- We recommend a booster vaccine dose is given every 3 years in those who remain at risk [1C]

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22. TUBERCULOSIS

22.1 Infection and disease

The *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex includes *M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis* and *M. africanum*. Transmission nearly always occurs through airborne droplets that are expelled when a person with pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) coughs, talks, sings, or sneezes. The most infectious persons are those with cavitary pulmonary disease. Transmission usually requires prolonged exposure and close contact. In some cases transmission can occur through unpasteurised milk or milk products from infected cattle. Depending on host factors, infection may be cleared, remain latent, or progress to active disease over a period of weeks or months. Disease is usually pulmonary (60% of cases), but non-pulmonary and disseminated disease can occur, especially in young children and immunocompromised persons, and almost every tissue and organ can be affected [1]. Latent infection can re-activate. The lifetime risk of re-activation is 5–15% for immunocompetent adults. The majority of re-activations occur within 2 years of primary infection.

22.2 Epidemiology

In the UK, cases of TB have increased over the last 10 years. A large number of cases are in people born abroad, the rate being higher in certain ethnic groups in the first few years after they enter the country, and rates remain high in the children of these immigrants wherever they are born. The risk of infection is also increased in persons who are close contacts of infectious persons, have HIV infection, are homeless, have hazardous alcohol use, or inject drugs. Risk factors for disease are diabetes mellitus, renal failure, immunodeficiency, latent infection acquired in infancy or early childhood, and therapy with immunomodulators (especially TNF- α antagonists). The mainstay of TB control is identifying and treating infectious cases to stop transmission, skin-testing or interferon gamma release assays (IGRAs) for children and adults who are at high risk for TB, and (where indicated) administering preventive therapy to persons with a positive skin-test result. Vaccination contributes to the prevention and control of TB in limited situations and is contraindicated in HIV infection.

22.3 TB in HIV-positive adults

HIV infection substantially increases the risk of infection and active TB disease: worldwide, TB is the leading cause of death among HIV-positive people [2]. HIV also suppresses responses to the tuberculin test.

22.4 Bacille Calmette-Guerin vaccine

The BCG vaccine is a live attenuated vaccine containing a strain of *M. bovis* isolated in 1908 from a cow, which was sub-cultured 231 times over 13 years resulting in gradual attenuation. Several laboratories produce vaccine derived from the original strain and many different BCG vaccines are available worldwide, with different production techniques and characteristics. BCG Vaccine Statens Serum Institut (SSI) is available in the UK. It is administered intradermally in the lateral aspect of the left upper arm. Studies of BCG vaccine are difficult to interpret because they differ in design, location, strains used, vaccine dose, population, presence of mycobacteria in the environment, and diagnostic approach [3]. Protection rates vary widely in different trials. The vaccine appears to prevent the blood-borne spread of *M. tuberculosis* from primary pulmonary foci especially in children, but the protection afforded against pulmonary disease is more uncertain. There remain limited data concerning the protective efficacy of vaccination in adults, but overall efficacy appears to be higher in persons vaccinated during childhood compared with persons vaccinated at older ages. The efficacy of BCG vaccine in children and adults who are infected with HIV has not been determined. New TB vaccines are currently under investigation [4].

22.4.1 General indications

In the UK, a single BCG vaccine dose is given to selected high-risk infants and children, and previously unvaccinated tuberculin-negative close contacts of those with active respiratory TB. The vaccine is also indicated for previously unvaccinated tuberculin-negative adults below the age of 35 years if they are at occupational risk of exposure (e.g. healthcare workers, laboratory staff, veterinarians, prison staff, staff of care homes for the elderly, staff of hostels for homeless people and facilities accommodating refugees and asylum seekers) or intend to live or work in countries with an annual incidence of TB of 40/100,000 or greater. The BCG vaccine may also be considered for previously unvaccinated, tuberculin-negative individuals travelling to high-prevalence countries for 1 month or longer.

22.5 Vaccine safety

The BCG vaccine often causes local adverse effects, but serious or long-term complications are rare in healthy individuals. Within 10–14 days, 90–95% of vaccine recipients develop a tender erythematous papule at the injection site, which may ulcerate and then slowly subside over several weeks or months leaving a flat scar of 5–15 mm. There may be enlargement (<1 cm) of a regional lymph node. Severe injection site reactions may occur, usually as a result of faulty injection technique, excessive dosage, or vaccinating individuals who are tuberculin-positive. Other adverse reactions include headache, fever, lymphadenopathy (>1 cm), allergic reactions (including anaphylaxis) and, rarely, lymphadenitis, and disseminated BCG (e.g. osteitis or osteomyelitis). Fatal dissemination has been described in immunocompromised individuals and the BCG vaccine is contraindicated in such populations. Case reports indicate that symptomatic HIV-positive persons are at a greater risk of local and systemic complications including disseminated BCG disease than HIV-negative persons or persons with asymptomatic HIV infection [5–12]. These complications can occur several years after BCG vaccination. Overall, there is no evidence of a clear benefit of BCG vaccination in HIV-positive people that may offset the potential risk.

22.6 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend that the BCG vaccine be absolutely contraindicated in all HIV-positive persons regardless of CD4 cell count, ART use, viral load, and clinical status [1C]

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23. VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS

23.1 Infection and disease:

VZV is a herpes virus that after primary infection establishes latency within neurons. Primary infection causes varicella or chickenpox. Reactivation causes herpes zoster or shingles. Chickenpox is highly infectious and can be transmitted by respiratory droplets and aerosols up to 48 hours prior to the onset of the rash. The skin lesions of both chickenpox and shingles are infectious until crusted. Chickenpox is usually benign and self-limiting in healthy children; healthy adults are more likely to develop severe and even life-threatening infections. Complications may include severe cutaneous rashes, secondary bacterial infections, visceral involvement (e.g. pneumonia, hepatitis), and neurological disease (meningitis, encephalitis, myelitis). All adults with chickenpox, and especially pregnant women, are at risk of VZV pneumonia. Occasionally, infection in pregnancy leads to fetal injury (congenital varicella syndrome). Shingles is usually self-limiting, although persistent debilitating pain is a frequent complication, particularly in the elderly (post-herpetic neuralgia, PHN); eye involvement may lead to permanent visual impairment.

23.2 Epidemiology

In temperate climates, primary infection with VZV occurs most commonly during childhood. At least 90% of adults in England and Wales are VZV IgG seropositive [1], confirming prior infection. In tropical and sub-tropical climates, the mean age of primary VZV infection may be delayed. As a result, a significant proportion of adults raised in those regions remain VZV IgG seronegative and susceptible to primary infection in adulthood. Among HIV-positive adults in the UK, 1.5% lack evidence of VZV IgG [2]. Shingles is common in the general population, with an overall rate of 2–4 cases per 1000 person-years and higher incidence rates in adults ≥ 50 years of age and in immunocompromised people, including HIV-positive individuals [3–5].

23.3 VZV in HIV-positive adults

HIV-positive patients who acquire chickenpox are at increased risk of severe and even fulminant disease [6–8]. Cell-mediated immunity plays a major role in controlling VZV reactivation, and impaired cellular immunity also increases the risk of shingles in people with HIV [9]. Before the introduction of effective ART, incidence rates of shingles were 10–20-times higher in HIV-positive adults than in the age-matched general population [5,10–13]. While disease burden has been reduced by ART, it has remained 3–5-times higher than in HIV-negative people [5,13–17]. Shingles may occur and may recur at any time during HIV infection, although a low CD4 cell count and a viral load >400 copies/mL have been associated with a higher risk [5,12,18]. Additional risk factors may include a prior episode of shingles, crack cocaine use, and age >60 years (>40 years in crack cocaine users) [16,18]. Complications of shingles are also more common in HIV-positive subjects than in the age-matched general population (27–28% vs. 10–13%) [5,12], and may include cutaneous dissemination, chronic atypical skin lesions, ocular and neurological complications, or visceral dissemination. Acute retinal necrosis and neurological syndromes can occur as a result of VZV reactivation in the absence of rash. Both shingles and VZV-mediated cerebral vasculitis causing stroke have also been recognised as a manifestation of the immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome [19,20].

23.4 Chickenpox vaccine

Two varicella vaccines are available in the UK: Varilrix and Varivax. Both contain replicating live attenuated VZV (OKA strain). The vaccine strain can establish latent infection in some vaccine recipients, and can reactivate to cause shingles, although less commonly than with wild-type virus. Varilrix should only be administered by deep subcutaneous injection. Varivax can be administered by either intramuscular or deep subcutaneous injection. In healthy adults, two doses give 75% protection against any disease and 95% protection against severe disease. Waning immunity over time is

manifested by mild breakthrough infections with wild-type virus. The need for booster doses is currently under investigation. The vaccine is safe, although up to 10% of healthy adults develop a vaccine-associated rash, localised at the site of injection or generalised, within 1 month of immunisation [21]. Transmission of vaccine virus from vaccine recipients has been documented only rarely and only from individuals with vaccine-associated rashes. Vaccination is not contraindicated and is in fact recommended for close contacts of HIV-positive persons.

23.4.1 General indications

In the UK, the varicella vaccine is currently recommended for susceptible healthcare workers and close contacts of immunocompromised patients. Contraindications include pregnancy and significant immunocompromise.

23.5 Chickenpox vaccine in HIV-positive adults

The chickenpox vaccine has been shown to be safe and immunogenic in susceptible children with asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic HIV infection, and a suppressed viral load on ART is associated with improved immunogenicity [22–27]. Severe, but non-fatal vaccine-associated disease has been reported in some children with undiagnosed immunodeficiency [28]. There are limited data in HIV-positive adults. Among VZV IgG seropositive persons with CD4 cell counts >400 cells/ μ L and stable on ART for ≥ 3 months, the vaccine has been shown to boost VZV-specific cellular immune responses, without safety concerns [29]. Expert opinion in the US advises VZV vaccination in susceptible HIV-positive adults with CD4 cell counts >200 cells/ μ L, based upon evidence of safety and immunogenicity in children, the highly contagious nature of the infection, and the significant risk of severe disease resulting from primary VZV infection [30]. Furthermore, patients who develop complications from the vaccine strain can be managed with antiviral therapy (e.g. aciclovir 800 mg five-times daily, or valaciclovir 1 g three-times daily).

23.6. Shingles vaccine

The available shingles vaccine (Zostavax) contains high dose, replicating live attenuated VZV (Oka/Merck strain). The shingles vaccine is at least 14 times more potent than the chickenpox vaccine [31]. It is given as a single dose by subcutaneous injection and is licensed for immunocompetent adults aged ≥ 50 years [32]. Vaccination of immunocompetent adults aged ≥ 60 years boosts natural immunity and reduces the incidence of shingles by half and the incidence of PHN by two-thirds [33]. The vaccine is also efficacious in immunocompetent adults aged 50–59 years, and protection against shingles lasts for at least 5 years [34–36]. The need for boosting doses has not been clearly determined. A systematic review concluded that there is a clear benefit in vaccinating elderly patients, with no major safety concerns [36]. Inactivated subunit vaccines based on the VZV glycoprotein E (gE) antigen are in clinical development [37].

23.6.1 General indications

In the UK, shingles vaccination is recommended for adults without a history of immunodeficiency aged 70 years, and a 'catch-up' programme currently targets those aged 70–79 years. Contraindications include pregnancy and breast feeding and significant immunocompromise.

23.7. Shingles vaccine in HIV-positive adults

The shingles vaccine was safe and immunogenic in a randomised trial (ACTG 5247) of 392 HIV-positive patients who were VZV IgG seropositive and receiving ART with a CD4 cell count >200 cells/ μ L. There was a greater incidence of injection site reactions in the vaccine group (42%) versus the placebo group (12%). The greatest antibody response was observed in patients with CD4 cell counts >350 cells/ μ L [38]. Duration of response and clinical effectiveness are unknown. Although these data are promising, further studies are required to define the cost-effectiveness of shingles vaccination in HIV-positive

adults, including the appropriate age cut-off. Expert opinion is that it is reasonable to vaccinate patients ≥ 60 years of age (provided the CD4 cell count is >200 cells/ μL) [39]. Meanwhile, efforts are required to overcome barriers to the vaccination of HIV-positive people with good immune status who meet age-related indications for vaccination based upon general indications [40]. As a future alternative to a replicating vaccine, a recent phase 1/2, randomised, placebo-controlled study evaluated the immunogenicity and safety of a non-replicating adjuvanted subunit shingles vaccine in 123 HIV-positive adults who were predominantly on ART with CD4 cell counts ≥ 200 cells/ μL [37]. After two doses, the vaccine proved to be strongly immunogenic; no vaccination-related serious adverse events were reported.

23.8 Post-exposure prophylaxis

Protective immunity develops within 4 days of chickenpox vaccination, and Varivax (but not Varilrix) is licensed for post-exposure prophylaxis in susceptible individuals exposed to VZV, when it should be administered within 3 days and up to 5 days post-exposure in order to prevent or attenuate the infection. Available evidence supports the use of vaccination as post-exposure prophylaxis in healthy individuals [41,42]. There are currently no data in HIV infection, where the risk of any vaccine-related adverse event must be balanced against the risk of severe complications resulting from natural infection. Varicella-zoster immune globulin (VZIG) is indicated for susceptible immunocompromised patients (and pregnant women) who have had a significant exposure to VZV, and this includes symptomatic HIV-positive patients and asymptomatic patients with CD4 cell count <400 cells/ μL . VZIG should be given within 7 days and up to 10 days after exposure by intramuscular injection. The duration of protection is 3 weeks. In the event of a second exposure after 3 weeks, repeat administration is recommended. Where intramuscular injection is contraindicated in individuals with bleeding disorders, intravenous immunoglobulin may be given instead. VZIG given within 3 weeks of a live attenuated vaccine (except yellow fever) may interfere with the vaccine immunogenicity. Replicating vaccines should likewise be postponed until 3 months after the administration of VZIG. Published evidence for the efficacy of aciclovir as post-exposure prophylaxis indicates that chickenpox may be prevented or attenuated in children by administration of aciclovir starting between 7 and 10 days after exposure, for a total of 7 days [43,44]. The equivalent dose of aciclovir in adults is 800 mg four-times daily. There are no published controlled trials comparing antiviral prophylaxis directly with VZIG.

23.9 Recommendations for HIV-positive adults

- We recommend HIV-positive adults with a negative or uncertain history of chickenpox or shingles undergo VZV IgG testing to determine susceptibility to primary infection and reactivation [1B]
- We recommend VZV IgG seronegative patients who have a CD4 cell count >200 cells/ μL and preferably are established on ART are offered two doses of the chickenpox vaccine 3 months apart [1B]
 - Serological testing for evidence of VZV IgG seroconversion should be performed 4–6 weeks after the second vaccine dose [GPP]
- We recommend VZV IgG seropositive patients who have a CD4 cell count >200 cells/ μL and preferably are established on ART be offered one dose of the shingles vaccine in line with national age-related indications [1B]
 - We recommend prior serological testing for evidence of VZV IgG seropositivity in those lacking a reliable history of chickenpox or shingles [1C]
 - We recommend efforts be made to overcome barriers to the vaccination of HIV-positive people with CD4 cell count >200 cells/ μL who meet the age-related indications for shingles vaccination based upon national guidance [1B]
- We suggest that VZV IgG seropositive patients who have a CD4 cell count >200 cells/ μL and preferably are established on ART may benefit from shingles vaccination from the age of 60 years [2B]

- We recommend HIV-positive recipients of replicating VZV vaccines be advised to report post-vaccine rashes or other symptoms promptly, and following medical evaluation, be offered appropriate antiviral therapy against VZV if required [1B]
- We recommend that following a significant exposure to VZV, the VZV IgG status of the HIV-positive contact be ascertained regardless of vaccination history (although prophylaxis should not be delayed waiting for the results) and VZV IgG seronegative patients be considered for post-exposure prophylaxis and monitored closely for symptoms to facilitate prompt institution of antiviral therapy [1A]
 - We recommend VZV IgG seronegative contacts with CD4 cell counts <400 cells/μL receive post-exposure prophylaxis with VZIG as soon as possible, preferably within 7 days and not later than 10 days after exposure [1B]
 - We recommend that where VZIG is not available VZV IgG seronegative contacts be offered antiviral prophylaxis with aciclovir (800 mg four-times daily) [1B] or valaciclovir (1 g three-times daily) [1C] starting from day 7 after exposure and continuing for 7 days
 - We suggest VZV IgG seronegative contacts with CD4 cell count <200 cells/μL be considered for both VZIG and antiviral prophylaxis with aciclovir (800 mg four-times daily) or valaciclovir (1 g three-times daily) [2C] starting from day 7 after exposure and continuing for 7 days
 - We recommend VZV IgG seronegative contacts with CD4 cell counts >400 cells/μL receive post-exposure prophylaxis with the Varivax vaccine within 3 and up to 5 days after exposure [1C]. The second dose should normally be scheduled after 3 months
- We recommend that VZV seronegative close contacts of HIV-positive adults with CD4 cell count <200 cells/μL are proactively offered chickenpox vaccination [1B]
- We recommend that whenever possible HIV-positive patients receiving VZV replicating vaccines are not given treatment doses of antiviral drugs with anti-herpetic activity (e.g. aciclovir) at the time of vaccination and for 4 weeks subsequently as it may reduce vaccine immunogenicity [1D]

23.10 References

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24. YELLOW FEVER VIRUS

24.1 Infection and disease

Yellow fever virus (YFV) is a flavivirus spread by the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Severity varies. Most infections are asymptomatic or cause a non-specific, self-limited influenza-like illness. Severe cases are characterised by hepatitis, jaundice, and haemorrhage, and carry a risk of mortality of up to 50% in non-immune adults travelling to endemic areas [1-3]. There is no specific antiviral treatment available.

24.2 Epidemiology

YFV is prevalent in tropical and sub-tropical regions of Africa and South America, where it is endemic and intermittently epidemic. It does not occur in Asia. Two forms of YF – urban and jungle – are epidemiologically distinguishable. In South America, sporadic infections occur almost exclusively as a result of occupational exposure in or near forested areas. In Africa, YFV is transmitted mainly in the moist savannah zones of west-central Africa, especially during the late rainy and early dry season (July–October). For travellers to endemic areas the risk of acquiring YF has been estimated to be 0.4–4.3 cases per million travellers [2]. The risk of disease is ~10-times lower in South America than in rural West Africa, but varies greatly according to specific location and season. Under regulations set out by the World Health Organization, anyone travelling to a country or area where the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is found must have an International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis, which is compulsory for entry to several countries in these regions. The certificate is valid for 10 years from the tenth day after primary vaccination and immediately after revaccination [1].

24.3 Yellow fever in HIV-positive adults

It is not known whether the natural history of YF is modified by HIV infection.

24.4 YFV vaccine

YF vaccine is a replicating live attenuated preparation of the YFV 17D strain grown in embryonated chick eggs. The YF vaccine is given as a single dose by deep subcutaneous or intramuscular injection. In healthy recipients, a single dose of the YF vaccine has a protective efficacy of 90% after 10 days and 99% after 30 days [3]. The protection lasts for at least 10 years (for which duration the certificate of vaccination is valid), after which a booster is required for those at continued risk. However, with some exceptions, immunity is thought to persist for at least 35 years and probably for life. The Green Book gives recommendations about selected boosting indications (www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/306941/Green_Book_Chapter_35_v3_3.pdf).

General indications

The YF vaccine is offered to travellers to specific regions. Vaccination can only be given at designated vaccination centres as established by the International Health Regulations of WHO.

24.5 Vaccine safety

Adverse reactions are generally mild with headache, myalgia, low-grade fever and/or soreness at the injection site occurring in 10–30% of vaccine recipients. More serious adverse events are very rare and more likely to occur in persons who have no prior immunity to YFV. These are principally urticarial, bronchospasm or anaphylaxis (occurring in one per 130,000–250,000 vaccine doses), which may be related to reactions to the egg protein in the vaccine. Yellow fever vaccine-associated neurological disease (YEL-AND) has an estimated incidence overall of 0.4–0.8 per 100,000 with a higher rate in person aged over 60 years (1.4–1.8 per 100,000) [1]. Presentation is with fever and headache

progressing to confusion, focal neurological deficits, coma, and Guillain–Barré syndrome; complete clinical recovery is the usual outcome. Yellow fever vaccine-associated viscerotropic disease (YEL-AVD) was first described in 2001 and has an estimated incidence of 0.4 per 100,000, increasing to 1–2.3 per 100,000 in persons aged ≥ 60 years [1,4,5]. It resembles naturally acquired YF clinically and pathologically, and is characterised by multi-organ involvement and 50% risk of mortality. Studies are being conducted to clarify the cause and risk factors for these rare adverse events associated with the YF vaccines. A history of thymic dysfunction may be a risk factor.

The main groups of adult people for whom the vaccine is contraindicated are:

- People with severe egg allergy or previous anaphylactic reaction to a previous YF vaccine or to any components of the vaccine
- Those with a thymus disorder
- Persons with immunodeficiency caused by disease or treatment

People with any of these conditions can obtain a waiver letter prior to travel, although some countries may not accept waiver documents. Since it is recognised that older recipients are more at risk of developing YF vaccine-associated neurotropic and viscerotropic disease, older travellers are usually advised not to undergo vaccination and instead receive a certificate of exemption when the absolute risk of infection is low. In selected, individual cases, pregnant and breastfeeding women may be offered vaccination after careful risk assessment, where the risk of unavoidable exposure is greater than any potential risk associated with vaccination.

24.6 YFV vaccine in HIV-positive adults

A Cochrane review evaluated the risk and benefits of YFV vaccination in HIV-positive patients [6]. The review included three cohort studies [7–9] and reported that vaccination can produce protective levels of neutralising antibodies in HIV-positive people, although immunogenicity is less than in HIV-negative people. In one of the included studies, 83% of HIV-positive people had protective YFV neutralising antibodies titres (NT) 1 year after vaccination, compared with 97% of HIV-negative people [8]. NT were significantly lower and declined more rapidly during follow-up in HIV-positive patients. Another study demonstrated high NT 1 year after immunisation (98%) with a marginal decrease after 10 years (92%) [9]. Having a higher CD4 cell count (>200 cells/ μL) and lower viral load at the time of vaccination were key associations with development of NT. The Cochrane review reported that none of the 484 HIV positive persons included in the review suffered serious adverse events as a result of vaccination [6]. The data cautiously support the safety of YF vaccination in HIV-positive patients with CD4 cell counts >200 cells/ μL and following viral load suppression on ART. The small numbers of patients included limit conclusions, particularly the very low numbers ($n=21$) with a CD4 cell count <200 cells/ μL . There has been only one report of death after receiving YF 17D vaccine in a Thai man with symptomatic HIV infection and a CD4 cell count of 108 cells/ μL , probably from YEL-AND [10].

24.7 Recommendations for HIV positive adults

- We recommend that HIV-positive persons aged <60 years and with CD4 cell counts >200 cells/ μL who are due to travel to countries in which there is a recognised risk of exposure to YFV should be offered the choice of vaccination [1C]
 - We recommend patients receive counselling about the benefits and risks of vaccination in relation to the risk of exposure, emphasising that a high CD4 cell count and a suppressed viral load on ART are likely to maximise safety and efficacy of vaccination [1C]
 - If international travel requirements and not true exposure risk are the only reasons to vaccinate, a certificate of exemption can be given (some countries may not accept waiver certificates) [1C]
 - We recommend one vaccine dose at least 2 weeks before travel. Vaccine recipients should be monitored closely after vaccination [1C]

- We recommend a booster after 10 years for those at continued risk, providing the recipient remains aged <60 years, the CD4 cell count is >200 cells/ μ L, and following risk assessment and counselling [1C]
 - We suggest that a serological test may precede vaccination and guide boosting requirements in those at greater risk of side effects [2C]
- We recommend that until more data are available on vaccine safety, HIV-positive adults with CD4 cell counts <200 cells/ μ L or >60 years of age and pregnant women should not receive YFV vaccination, and should be discouraged from travel to destinations that present a true risk of infection [1C]

24.8 References

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