Pepin and the Hepatitis B Vaccine
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Pepin you are so big today!

You are one month old today.

We are going to see your pediatrician.

Pepe?

Are you ok?
Your dad took care of you yesterday...

...that is why he is so tired.

Pepe, do you know why it is so important to give Pepin the Hepatitis B vaccine?

You are right, the vaccine protects children from serious diseases.
Do you know what diseases?

The hepatitis B virus can cause a short-term illness called acute that leads to:

- Diarrhea and vomiting.
- Loss of appetite.
- Tiredness.
- Jaundice (yellow skin or eyes).
- Pain in muscles, joints, and stomach.
But you will be protected by receiving the vaccine today.

Pepe, we need to get ready to go.

This disease can also cause long-term illness called chronic that leads to:

- **Liver damage (cirrhosis).**
- **Liver cancer** and
- **Death.**
About one-and-a-quarter million people in the U.S. have chronic Hepatitis B Viral infection.

Each year approximately 80,000 people, mostly adults, become infected with the virus.

More than 11,000 people require hospitalization, and between 4,000 and 5,000 people die from chronic Hepatitis B.
Pepe, we should go now.

Do not worry Pepin you are protected.

Pepe do you know that the vaccine that Pepin will receive today...

...is in fact the first anti-cancer vaccine because it can prevent the form of liver cancer associated with this virus.
Quick, get ready, we need to go and protect Pepin.

I called my friend Megan to go with me because you were not waking up.

We can all go together.

I love to go with you, Pepin... ...Pepe, and my little cat.
I want to know more about the vaccine.

Hepatitis B virus is spread through contact with the blood and body fluids of an infected person.

A person can get infected by having unprotected sex with an infected person...

...or by sharing needles when injecting illegal drugs or...

...by being stuck with a blood contaminated needle.

In addition during birth when the virus passes from an infected mother to her baby.
One third of the people who are infected with Hepatitis B in the United States don’t know how they got it.

Everyone under 18 years of age should get this vaccine, along with anyone 18 and older who is at risk.

Should I receive the vaccine?
Adults who are at risk include the following:

People who have more than one sex partner in 6 months.

Men who have sex with other men.

People who have sex with an infected person.

People who inject illegal drugs.
Health care and public safety workers who might be exposed to infected blood or body fluids.

Persons who share a household with someone who has chronic Hepatitis B.

Patients on hemodialysis.

I do not fit in any of these categories.
Pepin what is the matter?

You only need to get three doses of hepatitis B vaccine according to the following schedule.

If a dose is missed or behind schedule, there is not a need to start over instead it is indicated to get the next dose as soon as possible.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Hepatitis B Vaccination Schedule</th>
<th>Who?</th>
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<td><strong>Infants</strong></td>
<td>Older child, adolescent, or adult</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Dose</strong></td>
<td><strong>Infants</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within 12 hours of birth</td>
<td>Mother infected with Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birth-2 months of age</td>
<td>Mother not infected with HBV</td>
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<td>Anytime</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Second Dose</strong></td>
<td><strong>Infants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2 months of age</td>
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<td>1-4 months of age (at least 1 month after first dose)</td>
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<td>1-2 months after first dose</td>
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<td><strong>Third Dose</strong></td>
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<td>6-18 months of age</td>
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<td>4-6 months after first dose</td>
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</table>
First Dose

Within 12 hours of birth to infants whose mothers are infected with Hepatitis B.

Anytime between birth and 2 months of age for infants whose mothers are not infected.

Anytime for older children, adolescents and adults.
The second dose should be given:

Between 1 and 2 months of age to children of infected mothers with Hepatitis B.

Between 1 and 4 months of age, but at least 1 month after the first dose, for children of mothers who are not infected...

...and 1 to 2 months after the first dose for older children, adolescents and adults.
Third Dose

At 6 months of age to children of infected mothers with Hepatitis B Virus.

At 6 to 18 months of age for children of mothers who are not infected, and...

...4 to 6 months after the first dose for older children, adolescents and adults.

Again, the second dose must be given at least 1 month after the first dose.
Finally the third dose must be given at least 2 months after the second dose and at least 4 months after the first.

The third dose should not be given to infants under 6 months of age...

...because this could reduce long-term protection.

Adolescents 11 to 15 years of age might need only two doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, separated by 4-6 months.

Ask your health care provider for details.
Some people should not get the Hepatitis B vaccine or should wait to receive it.

People should not get the Hepatitis B vaccine if they:

Have ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to baker’s yeast the kind used for making bread or...

...to a previous dose of the vaccine.

People who are moderately or severely ill at the time the Hepatitis B vaccine is scheduled should usually wait until they recover before getting the shot.
Now she feels that she knows everything?

I know everything.

Can you tell us if there are any problems with this vaccine?

A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions.

However...

...the chances of Hepatitis B vaccine causing serious harm, are extremely small...

...and getting the vaccine is much safer than getting Hepatitis B.
Most people who get the Hepatitis B vaccine do not have any problems.

That is exactly what I was going to tell you Pepe.

If mild problems occur, they might include:

Soreness where the shot was given lasting a day or two in 1 out of 11 children and adolescents, and 1 out of 4 adults.

Mild to moderate reactions include fever in 1 out of 14 children and adolescents, and 1 out of 100 adults.
Severe problems are very rare and, if they do occur, will be noticeable a few minutes to a few hours after receiving the shot.

Severe problems could include a high fever or unusual behavior.

Serious allergic reactions to any vaccine are extremely rare, signs of such a reaction could include...

...difficulty breathing, hoarseness or...
Wheezing.

Hives.

Paleness.

Weakness.

Fast heart beat or

Dizziness.

The possibility of these reactions are very rare.

In the event of a serious reaction, call a doctor or get the person to a doctor right away.
Tell your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.

Ask your doctor, nurse, or health department to file a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System Form.

call the VAERS yourself at

1-800-822-7967

or visit their website at

www.vaers.org
In the rare event that you or your child has a serious reaction to a vaccine...

...a federal program has been created to help you pay for the care of those who have been harmed.

For details about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program call 1-800-338-2382 or visit the program's website at www.hrsa.gov/osp/vicp

Well let us go home.

Hmmm, maybe Pepe isn't quite ready yet.