

CAUSE FOR A CURE

The Hepatitis B Foundation is a nationally recognized voluntary, non-profit organization dedicated to the cause and cure of hepatitis B through research, education and patient advocacy. We are committed to raising disease awareness, promoting prevention, supporting those affected by hepatitis B, and funding a cure research program. Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who received the Nobel Prize for discovering the hepatitis B virus, is one of the co-founders of the organization.

For more information please call or write:

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Hepatitis B Foundation

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THE FIRST LOVING ACT

VACCINATION

*A message for
adoptive parents from the*



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THE HOMECOMING

The adoption of a child is an exciting time. Amid all the preparations, there are many things to be aware of. One of these is hepatitis B.

This is a special concern for children coming from areas where hepatitis B is prevalent, such as Asia, parts of Africa, South America and Eastern Europe. Although hepatitis B is less prevalent in the U.S., it is still a health concern for children in America.

The Hepatitis B Foundation congratulates you on your decision to adopt and wishes your new family many happy, wonderful years together. We also recognize that education is the key to a successful adoption, so please know that we are here to help answer your questions about hepatitis B and the vaccine.

MOST ADOPTED CHILDREN WITH HEPATITIS B CAN EXPECT TO ENJOY A FULL AND NORMAL CHILDHOOD - AND A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE.

ABOUT HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is a disease that affects the liver. It is caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV) which can be transmitted through blood, sex, shared needles, and from an infected mother to a newborn during delivery. Most people who contract hepatitis B have mild symptoms and recover without complications. Some will become chronic carriers of the virus.

IT IS PREVENTABLE

There is a safe and effective vaccine to protect against HBV infection which is administered as three shots over six months. The vaccine has few minor side effects, the most common being soreness at the injection site. The two available vaccines are both synthetic, yeast-based products which have been FDA approved since 1986 and 1989. You cannot get hepatitis B from the vaccine.

Since overseas HBV testing is either not done or can be inaccurate, it is important that you vaccinate yourself and loved ones before your adoption is completed. If your new child arrives and tests negative for HBV, be sure to vaccinate him or her as well.

Hepatitis B vaccinations are now recommended for all infants, children and adolescents to 18 years of age by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

INFORMATION & REFERRAL

Should you discover your child has hepatitis B, information and support is available. The Hepatitis B Foundation has an active parent telephone network, parent support groups and free literature.