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SEVEN-YEAR STUDY OF HEPATITIS B VACCINE EFFICACY IN INFANTS FROM AN ENDEMIC AREA (SENEGAL)

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Abstract

A booster dose of hepatitis B vaccine was given to 143 children in whom hepatitis B had not developed 1 year after initial vaccination. Over the next six years the incidence of hepatitis B in this group was 1·5% per year compared with 11·5% per year in a similar group of unvaccinated children. In the first 4 years the protective efficacy of the vaccine was 100%, but during the 5th and 6th years it fell to 67%. For maximum protection a second booster is needed, 5 years after the first.

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