Should You Be Vaccinated Against Hepatitis A?

A screening questionnaire for adults

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). HAV is found in the feces (poop) of people with hepatitis A and is usually spread by close personal contact such as living in a household with or having sex with an infected person. HAV can also be spread by eating food or drinking water contaminated with HAV. Symptoms of HAV can include yellowing of the skin and eyes, nausea, fever, fatigue, belly pain, and dark urine. You can be sick for several weeks. Sometimes hepatitis A is fatal.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends hepatitis A vaccination for all children in the United States at one year of age, as well as for people who are in the risk groups listed below. CDC also recommends hepatitis A vaccine for any person who wishes to be protected from HAV infection. Please review the checklist below to see if you should be vaccinated.

(Some people should have their blood tested to find out if they have already been infected with HAV. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether this applies to you.)

My answer:

☐ Yes. I would like to be protected from hepatitis A. Please vaccinate me, or
   I am in one of the risk groups below (and do not need to specify which one). Please vaccinate me.
   • I travel or work in areas outside the United States where hepatitis A is common. (This includes everywhere except Australia, New Zealand, Northern and Western Europe, Japan, and Canada.)
   • I have chronic liver disease.
   • I have a blood clotting-factor disorder (for example, hemophilia).
   • I am a man who has sex with men.
   • I use street drugs.
   • I might have been exposed to the hepatitis A virus in the past two weeks.

☐ I’m not sure. I would like more information about hepatitis A and hepatitis A vaccine.

☐ No. I do not want to be vaccinated against hepatitis A today.