
VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

Why is postvaccination serologic testing (PVST) recommended no earlier than age 9 months for infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers? Select all that apply.

- a) To ensure that infants who receive combination Hib/HepB vaccine (Comvax) have time to develop detectable antibodies after the last dose of the series
- b) To avoid detection of passive anti-HBs from hepatitis B immune globulin administered at birth
- c) To ensure appropriate measurement of antibody to HBsAg (anti-HBs), which is transiently positive for 1 – 18 days after vaccination
- d) To maximize the likelihood of detecting late HBV infection
- e) None of the above

Answer: b) and d)

Postvaccination serologic testing (PVST) consists of two tests: measurement of HBsAg and anti-HBs. The optimal timing for PVST to detect a vaccine response generally is 1 – 2 months after the final dose of the HepB vaccine series. Results of tests for HBsAg can be transiently positive for 1 – 18 days after vaccination. PVST should be performed no earlier than age 9 months to avoid detection of passive anti-HBs from hepatitis B immune globulin administered at birth and to maximize the likelihood of detecting late HBV infection.

Source: MMWR Update: Shortened Interval for Postvaccination Serologic Testing of Infants Born to Hepatitis B-Infected Mothers, October 9, 2015. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6439a6.htm?s_cid=mm6439a6_w

