

# Preventing Liver Cancer from Birth

The hepatitis B vaccine has prevented over **100 million infections** and **38 million deaths** over the past 40 years.

## Hepatitis B vaccination is the first step to preventing liver cancer.

The hepatitis B vaccine is the first anti-cancer vaccine because it protects against hepatitis B - the world's leading cause of liver cancer.

In 2022, 29,000 people in the U.S. died from liver cancer. Up to 25% of people who were infected as babies and children will die prematurely from liver cancer and liver failure.

The hepatitis B vaccine, which has been FDA-approved since the 1980s, is safe and effective. Completing the vaccine series offers a lifetime of protection against one of the largest risks for liver cancer.



**Most people with hepatitis B are unknowingly infected during childbirth.**

The hepatitis B birth dose prevents this.

## Babies and children were once extremely vulnerable to hepatitis B. Universal infant birth dose has changed this.

Approximately 90% of babies who are exposed to hepatitis B will develop a chronic infection that can lead to very serious liver complications, such as cirrhosis.

Before the hepatitis B vaccine was recommended universally for infants, nearly 18,000 children were infected before the age of 10. Of those children, 9,000 were infected during childbirth. Since the recommendation, childhood and adolescent hepatitis B infections have dropped by 98%.

## Hepatitis B birth dose vaccination increases the likelihood of protection against other childhood diseases, such as polio and measles.

Babies who receive the birth dose during the recommended time period are nearly three times more likely to receive all of their recommended vaccines by 19 months.



### References:

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