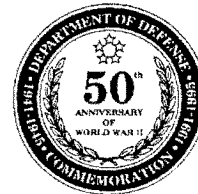




DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD  
5109 LEESBURG PIKE  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041-3258



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

AFEB (15-1a) 96-3

14 March 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH AFFAIRS)  
THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Recommendation on Timing of Booster Dose for Japanese  
Encephalitis Vaccine

1. The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) was asked to provide an opinion on whether it would be reasonable to administer the booster dose three years after the primary 3-dose series for Japanese encephalitis vaccine. The Board reviewed the FDA approved package insert and the ACIP statement, and reviewed data from a small study of 39 individuals revaccinated three years after the primary series. There was only a slight decline in antibody titers between 6 months and 3 years after the primary series. Two individuals at each time, 16 months and 3 years, had titers below the protective level of 1:10.
2. The vaccine is also believed to cause serious urticarial reactions in approximately 1-100 per 10,000 doses; the reactions may or may not occur following a booster dose.
3. Given these considerations, the AFEB recommends:

**CHANGING TO A 3-YEAR SCHEDULE, BUT OBTAINING  
MORE DATA ON ANTIBODY DECLINE AT 3 YEARS BY  
OBTAINING SERUM SPECIMENS PRIOR TO THE BOOSTER.  
INFORMATION SHOULD ALSO BE OBTAINED ON ANY  
INTERVENING BOOSTERS OR TRAVEL IN ENDEMIC  
AREAS. RESULTS OF THE SEROLOGIC STUDY  
SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE AFEB WITHIN  
ONE YEAR.**

FOR THE ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD:

GERALD F. FLETCHER, M.D.  
AFEB President

VICKY L. FOGELMAN  
Colonel, USAF, BSC  
AFEB Executive Secretary

Copies Furnished:  
(See Page 2)

SUBJECT: Recommendation on Timing of Booster Dose for Japanese  
Encephalitis Vaccine

Copies Furnished:

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Ch, Prev Med Div, OTSG-DA

Ch, Prev Med Div, OTSG-DAF

Dir. Occup Hlth & Prev Med Div, BUMED-DN

CDR, WRAIR

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Dir, AFIP

Dir, AFMIC

CDR, USACHPPM, ATTN: MCHB-DP

CDR, U. S. MCMR-ZA

CO NAVMEDRSCHDEVCOM

Navy Env. Health Center (Code 36)

Dir, Med Resources, Plans & Policy Div. (N931)

Dir, Env. Life Sci., OUSDA, ATTN: Dr. J. Osterman

ASBREM Sec., R&D, NMC

Head, Epi Dept., NEPMU 5

CDR David R. Arday, USPHS

COL Robert Leitch, RAMC

CDR Gordon Clifford, CFMS