

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



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFEB (15-1a) 97-1

22 January 1997

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 for the Use of Hepatitis A Vaccines
Produced by Different Manufacturers

The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) Infectious Disease Subcommittee met on 13 December 1996 to review the question of whether hepatitis A vaccine produced by two different manufacturers could be used in the same individual to complete the two dose immunization series. The following recommendation was proposed by the subcommittee and approved by the full Board:

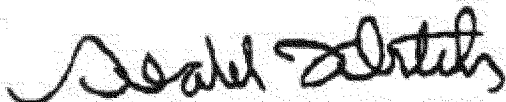
- a. ALTHOUGH PERTINENT DATA ARE LIMITED, FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW, THE HEPATITIS A VACCINES FROM THE TWO MANUFACTURERS CAN BE CONSIDERED TO BE COMPARABLY IMMUNOGENIC AND INTERCHANGEABLE. EITHER VACCINE CAN BE USED TO COMPLETE AN IMMUNIZATION SERIES BEGUN WITH THE OTHER.
- b. WHEN EQUIVALENT PRODUCTS, SUCH AS HEPATITIS A VACCINE, ARE PRODUCED BY TWO MANUFACTURERS, DUAL SOURCE CONTRACTS OFFER THE ADVANTAGES OF SUPPORTING THE LONG-TERM VACCINE MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY OF BOTH MANUFACTURERS AND PROVIDING A SAFEGUARD SHOULD ANY ONE MANUFACTURER EXPERIENCE AN INTERRUPTION IN ITS ABILITY TO SUPPLY VACCINE. THUS, THE AFEB RECOMMENDS THAT THE DOD DEVELOP A DUAL SOURCE STRATEGY FOR THE PURCHASE OF HEPATITIS A VACCINE.
- c. ANTICIPATING THE USE OF HEPATITIS A VACCINE FROM TWO MANUFACTURERS, THE AFEB RECOMMENDS A STUDY BE PERFORMED OF THE SAFETY AND IMMUNOGENICITY OF MIXING THE TWO VACCINES IN THE COMPLETION OF THE TWO DOSE VACCINATION SERIES. THE RESULTS OF SUCH A STUDY WOULD BE OF VALUE BOTH TO THE DOD AND THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

FOR THE ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD:

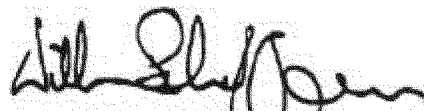
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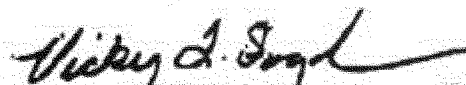
**SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Use of Hepatitis A Vaccines of
Different Manufacturers**



**GERALD F. FLETCHER, M.D.
AFEB President**



**WILLIAM SCHAFFNER, II, M.D.
Chairman, Disease Control Committee**



**VICKY L. FOGELMAN, COL., USAF, BSC
AFEB Executive Secretary**

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