

Impf- und Beratungsstelle für Reisemedizin

Yellow fever: vaccine consent

- **What is yellow fever?**

Yellow fever is a serious illness caused by yellow fever virus. It is one of the virus-related hemorrhagic fevers, which is associated with blood clotting disorders and bleedings. Yellow fever is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no direct contagion by another person.

Different courses of disease occur, starting from mild ones, which appear as a flu infection and subside after a few days by itself, to a severe illness with organ failure and death.

Yellow fever symptoms can be:

- Fever, muscle pain and headaches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Jaundice
- Liver failure, renal failure and pulmonary failure
- Bleedings

There are no specific treatment options for yellow fever. Suffering from yellow fever, one must be treated stationary with medical care. Nevertheless many patients die.

- **Yellow fever vaccine**

Yellow fever vaccine is used for more than 50 years. It has a good and long-lasting protective effect. It is a live vaccine with attenuated yellow fever virus, containing production-related egg white.

A yellow fever vaccine should be affected 10 days before departure to be safe and effective, in order to be officially recognized by the country of destination. Vaccines must be officially documented in the vaccine card by WHO in an accepted manner. The vaccine card should be carried with one because the immigration authorities may require showing.

The yellow fever vaccine certification is valid for life in most countries in the international tourist traffic.

• Which are the risks of a yellow fever vaccine?

Yellow fever vaccine is well tolerated by most people. If there are unsolicited reactions, usually they run in a mild way and consist in:

- Slight local irritation at the injection site
- Headache and muscle pain
- Mild fever

About 20 % of the vaccinated persons experience one or the other reaction, which may occur approximately three to seven days after vaccination.

In rare cases, serious side effects occur after vaccination, which can take three different courses:

- A severe allergic reaction in persons who are allergic to chicken protein. This occurs at about one in 130 000 vaccinations.
- A severe reaction of the nervous system such as meningitis or inflammation of the brain. This reaction occurs at approximately one in 200 000 vaccinations, especially on infants.
- A severe general reaction with multiple organ failure, such as lungs, liver or kidneys. Estimated occurrence is one in 200 000 vaccinations. This reaction is like yellow fever disease.

The reactions of the nervous system and the severe general reactions occurred at person with where vaccinates against yellow fever for the first time. People at the age of 60 or elder, vaccinated against yellow fever for the first time bear a five time higher risk of severe side effects than younger (one of about 40 000 vaccinations).

I have read the information and have no further questions about yellow fever vaccination.

Name

First name

Date

Signature

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