

Vaccination against Yellow Fever: consent form

What is yellow fever?

Yellow fever is a serious illness caused by the yellow fever virus. It is one of the virus-related haemorrhagic fevers, which is associated with blood clotting disorders and bleedings. The yellow fever virus is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no direct person-to-person transmission. Different courses of disease occur, starting from mild disease, which appears similar to an infection by flu infection and subsides after a few days by itself. Severe courses of the disease can lead to 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 is no specific treatment for yellow fever. People with yellow fever have to be admitted to a hospital with good medical care. Nevertheless many patients die.

The yellow fever vaccine

Yellow fever vaccines have been used for more than 50 years. The vaccine has a good efficacy and induces long-lasting immunity. It is a live vaccine containing attenuated yellow fever virus. Due to the production process it contains a very little amount of chicken's egg white. The yellow fever vaccine should be administered 10 days prior departure (It is only valid 10 days after administration.). That's how long it takes your immune system to mount an antibody response to the vaccine. Vaccines have to be officially documented in the vaccine card by WHO according to official specifications.

You should take your original vaccine card with you because you may be asked to present it by the immigration authorities.

What are the risks of a yellow fever vaccination?

Most of the people tolerate the immunisation well. If you develop any side effects, they are usually mild and last only for a few days. You may experience:

- 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. Usually they occur about three to seven days after the vaccination.

Serious side effects occur very rarely after the vaccination against yellow fever. There are mainly three severe reactions or diseases known occurring after this vaccination:

- A severe allergic reaction in persons who are allergic to chicken`s egg white. This occurs in about one of 130 000 vaccinated people.
- A severe reaction of the nervous system such as meningitis or inflammation of the brain. This reaction occurs in approximately one in 200 000 vaccinated people, especially in infants.
- A severe general reaction with multiple organ failure concerning lungs, liver, kidneys etc. The risk is estimated with one person in 200 000 vaccinated people. This reaction is like yellow fever disease.

The reactions concerning the central nervous system and the severe general reactions with organ failure were especially observed within people being vaccinated the first time against yellow fever.

People with 60 years of age or older being vaccinated for the first time have a higher risk of developing severe side effects than younger people. In the older age group the risk is five times higher than within younger people, that means the risk for severe adverse reactions is about one person in approximately 40 000 vaccinated people.

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

Last name _____ First name _____

Date _____ Signature _____