

[PKIDs Immunization Videos - Hepatitis B](#)

(Note: Except when noted, the speaker is shown on the screen. There is music playing softly in the background through most of the video.)

Mom: When you know you're going to become a mother, you start dreaming all these things for your child. And of course you never think about anything happening to your baby.

(Image of Paris sleeping)

Mom: When Paris was a baby she was a beautiful golden color, and it turns out, it was one of the first signs of hepatitis. They call it jaundice.

Doctor: Hepatitis B is inflammation of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus.

Mom: I didn't even know what it is. I certainly didn't know that there was a vaccine for it.

Doctor: It can go on to cause permanent scarring of the liver — we call that cirrhosis — or even liver cancer.

Mom: It was just constantly testing to see what the virus is doing...

(Image of Paris and Mom)

Mom: ...and her little veins were so small. The only person who could get blood out of her was her pediatrician...

(Image of young Paris)

Mom: ...and to do that she had to go in through her head, 'cause that's where the veins were the biggest. And the first time I saw that, I just about flipped.

Doctor: Ninety percent of children who are infected as newborns go on to be chronic carriers, and the body doesn't recognize it as an invader and fight it off. It just goes on to chronic infection. That's when you get the long-term damage.

Mom: But if you get it as an adult, you have only a 10 percent chance of staying infected. So, even though babies are less likely to get this disease, they're most likely to end up with problems their whole lives.

Doctor: There are no symptoms in young children, it's the long-term that's the problem.

Mom: You can just look at your child and know what's growing in her. The frustration is unbelievable.

(Image of Paris wearing a bandana)

Mom: She knew even when she was little that she was different — things were different for her.

(Image of Paris on hammock)

Mom: I felt horrible for her all over but in a completely different way.

Doctor: Most of the time in the US, when people get hepatitis B, it's through sexual contact.

(Video clip of pregnant woman sitting in chair)

Doctor: Some infants, though, are born with hepatitis B because it's passed from their infected mother to the infant.

Mom: We don't know for sure how Paris got hepatitis B.

Doctor: In order to prevent infection, the most important thing is vaccination.

Mom: Over the years I've been in a lot of conversations with other parents. They don't want to vaccinate their babies so early, particularly for something that they think is just a sexually transmitted disease.

Doctor: It's recommended for infants partly because screening for hepatitis B in mothers isn't perfect.

Mom: When you find out it's preventable, as a parent, that's the worst. It torments you, and you literally have nightmares — wanting to rewind.

Voiceover: Check with your provider to see if immunization is right for your family.

(Image: PKIDs.ORG Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases)