Eastern Connecticut State University Student Health Service

Vivotif® (Typhoid Vaccine Live Oral Ty21a)

About Typhoid Fever
Typhoid fever is caused by infection with the bacterium, Salmonella typhi Ty21a. Signs and symptoms of this disease, which is spread through contaminated food and water or through close contact with an infected person, include very high fever, headache, abdominal pain and either constipation or diarrhea. The disease is endemic in most of Central and South America, the African continent, the Near East and Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent.

The Vaccine
Vivotif® is a live attenuated vaccine used to reduce the risk of contracting typhoid fever. It contains a weakened strain of S. typhi and is administered orally. Please note that Vivotif® does not fully protect against typhoid fever. Vaccinated persons should still continue to take precautions against exposure to typhoid organisms by avoiding potentially contaminated food, water or infected persons.

This vaccine should not be taken if you have a fever, if you have any immune system deficiencies, or if you have an acute intestinal illness (postpone until vomiting and/or diarrhea have stopped). If you are taking any sulfa-based medications or antibiotics, you should wait until you have finished these drugs before taking Vivotif®. It is not known whether Vivotif® could cause harm to a developing fetus; therefore, pregnant women should not take this medication unless clearly needed.

Directions
Take one capsule with a cold or lukewarm beverage approximately 1 hour before or two hours after a meal on alternate days (e.g., days 1, 3, 5 and 7). All four doses must be completed at least 1 week prior to travel to a typhoid-endemic area. The capsule is to be swallowed whole. Do not chew or crush it. Swallow it as soon as possible after placing it in the mouth.

Efficacy
While not completely known, protection against typhoid fever has been shown to last about five years after vaccine administration. Re-immunization is recommended every five years if conditions of repeated or continued exposure to typhoid fever exist.

Adverse Effects
Most people who have taken Vivotif have experienced no problems. The main side effects experienced by a small number of people taking this vaccine were abdominal pain, nausea, headache, fever, diarrhea, vomiting, and skin rash.

Have a safe AND healthy trip.