Can Hepatitis A Be Prevented By a Vaccination?
Yes, it is called Havrix.

What Is Hepatitis A?
Hepatitis A is a highly contagious virus transmitted most commonly person-to-person via the oral-fecal route.

How Can Hepatitis A Virus Be Spread?
Infection may be spread by:
- Contaminated water
- Infected food handlers
- Poor sanitary conditions during floods and natural disasters
- Ingestion of raw or undercooked shell-fish
- Traveling to areas with poor hygienic conditions
- Institutionalized children and adults
- Day care centers
- Care takers
- Engaging in high-risk sexual activity such as homosexuality
- Users of IV drugs

The incubation period (i.e., from the time of exposure to the start of symptoms) averages 28 days.

What Are The Symptoms of Hepatitis A Virus?
The major symptoms are fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and jaundice.

Hepatitis A is often asymptotic in children less than two years of age, but they may carry the virus in their stools.

When Is The Hepatitis A (Havrix) Vaccination Given?
In adults, a primary dose is given initially then a booster 6 to 12 months later.

In those 2-18 years of age one dose initially followed by a dose in one month and then a booster at 6 to 12 months.

Who Should Receive This Hepatitis A Vaccination?
This vaccination is indicated for those persons who are exposed to the hepatitis A virus and to those that desire protection against the virus such as travelers. It is also recommended that this vaccination be given to persons with chronic liver disease.

TRAVELERS: These areas include, but are not limited to the following; Africa, Asia, (except Japan), the Mediterranean Basin, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central

Immunization should be given at least two weeks before travel.

People exposed to Hepatitis A virus may be given both the hepatitis A vaccination (Havrix) and also immunoglobulin for both immediate and long-term protection.

It is not recommended that Havirx be given to pregnant women or nursing mothers.

If you have any questions, please consult your physician.