

Zostavax[®]

Vaccine	Primary Immunization Schedule	Minimum Age	Booster
Zostavax [®] (Merck)	0.65 mL subcutaneous (SC)	60 years (ACIP recommendation)	No booster established at this time



Zostavax[®] Vaccine Recommendations

- ACIP recommends routine vaccination of all persons aged 60 years and older with 1 dose of zoster vaccine unless contraindicated (see contraindications on next page) and whether or not they report a prior episode of herpes zoster (shingles).
- Persons who report a previous episode of zoster and persons with chronic medical conditions (e.g. chronic renal failure, diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, and chronic pulmonary disease) can be vaccinated unless those conditions are contraindications or precautions.
- Zoster vaccine can be administered to persons at any time before, concurrent with, or after receiving blood or other antibody-containing blood.
- Zoster vaccination is **not** indicated to treat acute zoster, to prevent persons with acute zoster from developing post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN) pain or to treat ongoing PHN.
- Before routine administration of zoster vaccine, it is not necessary to ask patients about their history of varicella (chickenpox) or to conduct serologic testing for varicella immunity.
- Zoster vaccination is **not** recommended for persons of any age who have received varicella vaccine. However, health-care providers do not need to inquire about varicella vaccination history before administering zoster vaccine because virtually all persons currently or soon to be in the recommended age group have not received varicella vaccine.
- Zoster vaccine is not a substitute for varicella vaccine [Varicella Virus Vaccine Live (Merck)] and should not be used in children.

How Supplied/Vaccine Storage and Handling

- Zostavax[®] is a lyophilized preparation of live, attenuated varicella-zoster virus (Oka/Merck) in single-dose vials to be reconstituted with sterile diluent. Only use the diluent supplied with the vaccine.
- The diluent should be stored separately at room temperature (68°F to 77°F, 20°C to 25°C), or in the refrigerator (36°F to 46°F, 2°C to 8°C).
- Store Zostavax[®] in the freezer between and -58°F to 5°F (aim for 0°F).
- Once vaccine is reconstituted, use within 30 minutes and do not refreeze.

Adverse Reactions

- Redness, swelling, or itching at the site of the injection (about 1 person in 3).
- Headache (about 1 person in 70).
- No serious problems have been identified with shingles vaccine.

Precautions

- Moderate or severe acute illness.
- Current treatment with an antiviral drug active against herpesviruses.
 - ✓ Antiviral agents might interfere with replication of the live, VZV-based zoster vaccine.
 - ✓ Persons taking chronic acyclovir, famciclovir, or valacyclovir should discontinue these medications at least 24 hours **before** administration of zoster vaccine.
 - ✓ These medications should not be used for at least 14 days **after** vaccination.
- Recent receipt of a blood product is **NOT** a precaution.

FDA Licensure for Persons Aged 50-59

- In March of 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Zostavax® for use among adults starting at age 50 years. ACIP continues to recommend routine vaccination for adults starting at 60 years and older..
- For providers who choose to use Zostavax® in patients starting at age 50 ***despite the absence of an ACIP recommendation***, factors that might be considered are:
 - ✓ Particularly poor anticipated tolerance of herpes zoster or postherpetic neuralgia symptoms (e.g. attributable to preexisting chronic pain, severe depression, or other comorbid conditions)
 - ✓ Inability to tolerate treatment medications because of hypersensitivity or interactions with other chronic medications
 - ✓ Occupational considerations
 - ✓ No data are available regarding the effectiveness of herpes zoster vaccine in adults who become immunosuppressed subsequent to vaccination

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http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6044a5.htm?s_cid=mm6044a5_e%0D%0A



Contraindications

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a vaccine component (i.e. gelatin or neomycin) or following a prior dose.
- Pregnancy or planned pregnancy within 4 weeks. The manufacturer in collaboration with CDC has established a Varicella Vaccination in Pregnancy registry to monitor the maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women or women who become pregnant within 3 months of vaccination (800-986-8999).
- History of primary or acquired immunodeficiency states including leukemia, lymphomas of any type, or other malignant neoplasms affecting the bone marrow or lymphatic system.
 - ✓ ACIP recommends that persons whose leukemia or lymphoma is in remission and who have not received chemotherapy or radiation for at least 3 months can be vaccinated.
- AIDS or other clinical manifestations of infection with human immunodeficiency viruses.
- Immunosuppressive therapy, including high-dose corticosteroids.

To Reconstitute Vaccine

- Withdraw the entire contents of the diluent vial into a syringe.
- Inject all of the diluent in the syringe into the vial of lyophilized vaccine and gently agitate to mix thoroughly. Withdraw the entire contents into a syringe.