Recombinant Zoster Vaccine (Shingrix)

Using Shingrix vaccine

KNOW THE SITE. GET IT RIGHT!

Store and Prepare the Vaccine

» Store Shingrix vaccine (recombinant zoster vaccine) AND adjuvanted diluent in the refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F).
» Store in original packaging, protected from light.
» DO NOT FREEZE. Frozen vaccine or adjuvanted diluent should NOT be administered.
» Prepare vaccine just before administration using a new, sterile needle and syringe.
» Reconstitute vaccine with the adjuvanted diluent that came with the lyophilized vaccine.

Store and Prepare the Vaccine

Administer the vaccine correctly

» Route: Intramuscular (IM) injection
» Needle: 23-25 gauge, 1 to 1 1/2 inch sterile needle
» Dose: 0.5 mL
» Site: Deltoid muscle
» Administration: May administer during the same clinical visit as other needed vaccines. Administer in a separate limb from other vaccines, if possible.

IM injection best practices

» Identify the site carefully using anatomical landmarks. Shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (SIRVA) may result from the unintentional injection of a vaccine into tissues and structures lying underneath the deltoid muscle.
» Administering the injection too high on the upper arm may cause shoulder injury.

Follow the schedule

» CDC recommends Shingrix as preferred over Zostavax® (zoster vaccine live) for the prevention of herpes zoster (shingles) and related complications.*
» Shingrix vaccine is a 2-dose series, administered 2 to 6 months apart. Both doses are needed to provide protection.
» Shingrix is recommended for individuals 50 years of age and older.
» Shingrix can be administered to people who have received Zostavax or have already had shingles.
» If Zostavax was previously given, wait at least 8 weeks before administering Shingrix.
» Schedule an appointment for the second dose before the patient leaves.

Educate the patient

» About 1 out of 6 people who got Shingrix experienced side effects that prevented them from doing regular activities for a few days.
» Remind patients they may experience a local reaction or side effect such as pain, redness, and swelling and systemic reactions such as myalgia, fatigue, and headache that may interrupt regular activities a few days after receiving Shingrix.
» It is important patients get the second dose of Shingrix to build strong protection against shingles, even if they have side effects from the first dose.
» Patients’ reactions to each dose may be different; just because they have a reaction to the first dose does not mean they will have a reaction to the second.

For additional information on proper vaccine administration, visit the CDC vaccine administration web page at https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/admin-protocols.html

*Zostavax® is still recommended for healthy adults 60 years and older.

Report any clinically significant adverse event after vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at vaers.hhs.gov