

Herpes zoster vaccine pocket guide for immunizers

Herpes Zoster Vaccine – Recommended Usage

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization¹ recommends the herpes zoster vaccine for:

- persons 60 years of age and older without contraindications
- persons irrespective of a prior history of chickenpox or documented prior varicella infection
- persons 50–60 years of age may benefit from this vaccine and should speak with their doctor about the pros and cons of receiving the vaccine

Dosage

The herpes zoster vaccine is a single dose regimen of 0.65 mL given as a subcutaneous injection in the deltoid region of the upper arm.

Contraindications and Precautions

Do NOT give the herpes zoster vaccine to:

- adults with anaphylactic hypersensitivity to any of the vaccine's components
- adults with congenital or acquired immune deficiency
- adults using immune suppressive medications
- pregnant women or those less than 50 years of age
- adults with active untreated tuberculosis
- deferral should be considered in acute illness, for example, in the presence of fever

Potential Adverse Reactions

- erythema
- pain or tenderness
- swelling and rash at injection site

Simultaneous Administration with Other Vaccines

- Trivalent influenza vaccine may be administered concomitantly with the herpes zoster vaccine at a different body injection site.
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine and herpes zoster vaccine should be administered at least 4 weeks apart.

References

¹ National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Statement on the Recommended Use of Herpes Zoster Vaccine, CCDR Volume 36, ACS-1, January 2010.

Online: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/10vol36/acs-1/index-eng.php>

More Information

Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion (CCIAP)

Tel.: 613.725.3769 x 122

E-mail: immunize@cpha.ca

Web site: immunize.ca

August 2010



Canadian Coalition
for Immunization Awareness
& Promotion (CCIAP)
immunize.ca

