



Vax Facts

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Avoiding Administration Errors with Shingles Vaccine

The US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has been receiving reports of vaccine administration errors related to shingles (herpes zoster) immunization. The reports indicate confusion between the live, attenuated vaccine Zostavax[®] and the new recombinant, adjuvanted vaccine, Shingrix[®]. For details see: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6720a4.htm>.

Please take note of the following important tips for storing and administering Shingrix:

- Shingrix is supplied as 2 components: one vial with the freeze-dried vaccine granules, and a second vial with the liquid adjuvant.
- Both Shingrix components must be stored in the refrigerator between 2-8°C (36-46°F). Do not put Shingrix in the freezer. Discard if the vaccine has been frozen.
- Reconstitute the vaccine by injecting the Shingrix adjuvant liquid into the Shingrix freeze-dried vaccine vial, according to the package insert. Do not use any other liquid for reconstitution. After reconstitution, administer immediately or store refrigerated and use within 6 hours. Discard reconstituted vaccine if not used within 6 hours.
- Administer Shingrix intramuscularly in the deltoid muscle.
- 2 doses of Shingrix are required, regardless of whether the patient received Zostavax in the past. Give the 2nd dose 2-6 months after the first. If more than 6 months has elapsed between doses, give the 2nd dose as soon as you can; there is no need to restart the series. However if the 2nd dose was given less than 4 weeks after the first, the 2nd dose should be repeated.
- Shingrix is recommended for immunocompetent adults aged ≥ 50 years, including those who previously received Zostavax. Shingrix is preferred over Zostavax for the prevention of shingles and its complications.

Full CDC Shingrix Recommendations:

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6703a5.htm?s_cid=mm6703a5_w

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