Did You Know?

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Shingrix

- Shingrix is a new vaccine approved to prevent herpes zoster also known as shingles. Currently, there is one other vaccine on the market that works to prevent shingles called Zostavax. Shingrix is now preferred over Zostavax as it has been shown to be more effective.

- What is shingles?
  - Shingles is a viral disease that causes a painful rash with blisters. Usually, the rash occurs on one side of the body and is often found on the face and torso. The pain is often described as an intense burning sensation and can last for months, sometimes even years, after the rash has disappeared. This pain is referred to as postherpetic neuralgia, the most common complication of shingles.

- Indication and Efficacy of Shingrix:

  On October 25, 2017, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted that Shingrix® is:

  - Recommended for healthy adults aged 50 years and older to prevent shingles and related complications
  - Recommended for adults who previously received the current shingles vaccine (Zostavax®) to prevent shingles and related complications
  - The preferred vaccine for preventing shingles and related complications (over Zostavax)
  - Shingrix should not be administered less than two months after a patient received Zostavax

  Efficacy Estimates for Shingrix and Zostavax:

	Ages 60-69 Years	Ages 70-79 Years	Older Than 80 Years
Shingrix	97%	91%	91%
Zostavax	64%	41%	18%

Source: CDC

- How Is It Administered?
  - 0.5 mL IM initially, followed by a second dose of 0.5 mL IM 2 to 6 months later

- Reconstitution:
  - Prepare zoster vaccine, recombinant by reconstituting the lyophilized varicella zoster virus glycoprotein E (gE) antigen component with the accompanying AS01B adjuvant suspension component.
  - Using a sterile needle and sterile syringe, withdraw the entire contents of the vial of the adjuvant suspension component (blue-green cap, vial 1 of 2) by slightly tilting the vial.
  - Slowly transfer entire contents of syringe into the lyophilized gE antigen component vial (brown cap, vial 2 of 2).
  - Gently shake the vial until contents are thoroughly mixed and powder is completely dissolved.
  - Withdraw 0.5 mL of reconstituted product for the dose.

- Adverse Reactions:
  - Injection site reactions: pain at the injection site, edema or swelling, redness, and pruritis.
  - Others reported: myalgia, fatigue, headache, shivering, fever, n/v/d

- Contraindications/Precautions:
  - A person experiencing an acute episode of herpes zoster should not receive the vaccine. After the acute phase of the illness is over and symptoms have abated, vaccination can be considered.
  - A person with a history of severe allergic reaction, such as anaphylaxis, to any component of a vaccine or after a previous dose of Shingrix.
  - A person who is known to be seronegative for varicella.

- Storage:
  - Refrigerate between 36 and 46 degrees F. DO NOT FREEZE. Do not use if product has been frozen.
  - It is recommended to use immediately after reconstitution. If it cannot be administered immediately, it may be stored under refrigeration for up to 6 hours. Discard reconstituted product if not used within 6 hours. Discard unused portion. Do not store for later use.
  - Protect from light

- Insurance Coverage:
  - Shingrix is covered under most Medicare Part D plans in full.
    Some, may have a co-pay.

References:
1. Shingrix. Drug Monograph. Accessed 2/20/18 from: https://www.clinicalkey.com/pharmacology/monograph/4980?sec=monindi&n=SHINGRIX
2. https://www.cdc.gov/shingles/vaccination.html

Show What You Know

Shingrix Quiz

1) True or False

Mary, a 70 year old lady, received the Zostavax vaccine in 2006. It is not recommended she receive the new vaccine for shingles, Shingrix.

2) True or False

Martin, an 80 year old male, currently has an active shingles infection, diagnosed two days ago. He can have the Shingrix vaccine at this time as it is recommended to treat the shingles infection.

3) How should Shingrix be stored?

a. Frozen
b. At room temperature
c. Under refrigeration
d. Any of the above

4) How many total doses of Shingrix should an individual have?

a. 1
b. 2
c. 3
d. None of the above

Quiz Answers- How Did You Do?

1. False
2. False
3. C - Under Refrigeration
4. B - 2 Total Doses