Non-Live Recombinant Herpes Zoster Vaccine (SHINGRIX)

**Bottom Line...**

- **SHINGRIX** is indicated for the prevention of herpes zoster (HZ or shingles) in adults age ≥ 50.
- **SHINGRIX** reduces the risk of shingles by 91% (ARR=3.1%, NNT=32) & postherpetic neuralgia (PHN) by ~90% (ARR=0.3%, NNT=333) in 3 yrs.

**NNT:** Eg. for every 333 vaccinated with SHINGRIX, 10 shingle cases (age ≥50 years) and 1 PHN cases (age ≥50 years) were prevented over ~ 3 yrs.

- **SHINGRIX** demonstrated efficacy for prevention of shingles effective in all age groups 50-80+, **ZOSTAVAX** less effective with increasing age.
- **SHINGRIX** use in patients with a history of shingles has been studied (open-label, non-randomized trial (n=93 patients, age 50-89 yr) for 3 months). **ZOSTER-013** Vaccine can be given after shingles symptoms/rash resolved ≥1 yr after CDI.

- Cost ~ $300 for 2 doses given intramuscularly (IM) 2-6 months apart (dosage interval is not needed to achieve compliance). (Refrigerate to 2-8°C; Discard if frozen)

- Canadian NACT18 recommends **SHINGRIX** should be offered to individuals ≥50 yrs without contraindications including:
  - Individuals previously vaccinated with **ZOSTAVAX**; Re-vaccinate with two doses of RVZ at least one year after receiving Zostavax
  - Individuals with a previous episode of herpes zoster disease. Provide two doses of **SHINGRIX** at least one year after herpetic zoster episode.
  - Immunocompromised individuals, may be considered on a case-by-case assessment of the benefits vs risks.
- **ZOSTAVAX** may be considered for immunocompetent individuals ≥50 yrs of age without contraindications when **SHINGRIX** is contraindicated, unavailable or inaccessible.
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP USA) recommends **SHINGRIX** as the preferred vaccine for preventing shingles and related complications. ACIP also recommends **SHINGRIX** (give both of the 2 doses) for adults who previously received **ZOSTAVAX**.

- **Administr** **SHINGRIX** as early as 8 weeks after **ZOSTAVAX**, but especially after 5 years (as **ZOSTAVAX** efficacy declines over time).

**What is SHINGRIX?**

- **Herpes Zoster (shingles) vaccine** contains NON-live, recombinant, AS01B adjuvanted herpes zoster vaccine. This vaccine contains antigen glycoprotein E, which is the most abundant antigen in varicella zoster vaccine (VZV) infected cells and the main target for VZV-specific CD4+ T-cell response. This vaccine also includes adjuvant AS01 that helps to elicit an early, high and long-lasting response with less antigen.

- Indicated for prevention of shingles in **patients ≥50yrs**. Not for treating shingles, PHN or preventing primary varicella infection.

**Is SHINGRIX effective?**

- **Clinical Outcomes** (Pooled ZOE-70 & ZOE-50)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine %, n = 8250</th>
<th>Placebo %, n = 8346</th>
<th>RRR</th>
<th>ARR</th>
<th>NNT over ~3yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incidence of shingles (overall)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 70-79 yr</td>
<td>0.30% (n=198468)</td>
<td>3.40%, n=284</td>
<td>91.3%</td>
<td>3.10%</td>
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<td>Age ≥ 80 yr</td>
<td>0.26% (n=67126)</td>
<td>0.99%, n=8346</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
<td>3.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>0.02% (n=20813)</td>
<td>0.79% (n=87024)</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
<td>0.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>0.12% (n=7736)</td>
<td>0.76% (n=576811)</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>0.64%</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>0.09% (n=7742)</td>
<td>0.77% (n=577267)</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
<td>0.68%</td>
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<td>Incidence of PHN</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Age 70-79 yr</td>
<td>0.05% (n=85280)</td>
<td>0.43%, n=56834</td>
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<td>Age ≥ 80 yr</td>
<td>0.03% (n=13881)</td>
<td>0.33%, n=461043</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
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<td>Age 50-59 yr</td>
<td>0.00% (n=43941)</td>
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<td>0.09%, n=22166</td>
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- **Source:** Blinded investigators, participants and those responsible for the evaluation of any study endpoint (study staff who prepared injection) were not blinded, RCT, excluded history of shingles, previously vaccinated against varicella or herpes zoster or immunosuppressed, significant underlying illness or other condition that may interfere with study assessments (e.g. cognitive impairment, chronic pain syndrome); no intention to treat analysis was performed.

**Efficacy:**

- **Efficacy for prevention of shingles decreases over time (97.6% > 87.9% over 4 years)**
- **Optimal age for benefit in incidence of PHN: Age > 69**

**SHINGRIX vs ZOSTAVAX studies:**

- **ZOSTAVAX** - higher incidence of Shingles in 1-year study (n=38,546) *
  - Overall Age ≥ 60 yrs: 1.64% vs 3.33% placebo
  - Age 60-69yrs: 1.18% vs 3.22% placebo
  - Age >70yrs: 2.17% vs 3.46% placebo

- **ZOSTAVAX** - higher incidence of PHN in 3-year study.
  - Overall Age ≥ 60 yrs: 0.14% vs 0.42% placebo
  - Age 60-69yrs: 0.08% vs 0.22% placebo
  - Age >70yrs: 0.21% vs 0.64% placebo

- **ZOSTAVAX** - More frail, more active surveillance, and/or the use of a more sensitive case definition?

- **Adverse reactions:**
  - More pain, redness & swelling x 2-3days
  - More Grade 3 injection site reaction = redness & swelling >100mm (NNH=11-12 in 7 days)
  - More systemic reactions x 1-2 days

- **Grade 3 solicited systemic reactions (prevents normal activity) were more frequent after 2nd dose (8.5%, 95% CI, 7.7 to 9.4) than after 1st dose (5.9%, 95% CI, 5.2 to 6.6)**

- **Grade 3 systemic reaction = prevents normal activity**
What are potential adverse events and drug interactions with Shingrix? 1-3,5,10,11,12,13

- Common adverse events include (compared to placebo):
  - Reactions were transient, with median durations of 2 to 3 days for injection-site reactions, 1 to 2 days for systemic reactions, and 1 to 2 days for grade 3 reactions. Most reactions were considered mild to moderate in intensity.
  - More redness and swelling >100mm to affected area lasting 1-2 days (NNH=11-12 in 7 days).
  - More systemic reactions that prevented normal activity for 1-2 days (NNH=11 to 25 in 7 days).
  - Injection site reactions: pain, redness, swelling; and systemic reactions: myalgia, fatigue, headache, shivering, fever, GI symptoms.
  - For age >70, the overall frequency and severity of the reactions did not increase significantly after 2nd dose (50E-70).
  - For ages 50-70, systemic reactions that prevented normal activity were more frequent after 2nd dose (8.5%) than after the first dose (5.9%)

- Interactions: Can be administered with other live vaccines & inactivated vaccines.
  - Can be given concomitantly with unadjuvanted seasonal influenza vaccine at different injection sites.14
  - Must not be mixed with any other products in the same syringe.

What are other potential cautions regarding the use of Shingrix? 1-3,5

- **Shingrix** is contraindicated if:
  - Patients have a known hypersensitivity to the active substances or to any component of the vaccine.
- **Shingrix** should be offered to individuals ≥50 yrs without contraindications.
- **USA** - ACIP 2017; preferred vaccine for preventing shingles & related complications for all ≥50 yrs, including those who previously received Zostavax.
- **History of chicken pox**: HZV can be administered (not studied).

How long after a shingles episode can the Herpes Zoster Vaccine be given?

- No official or specific recommendation for Shingrix.
- **Canada**: It is recommended that at least 1 year elapse between the last shingles episode and zoster vaccination. Herpes ophthalmicus has recurred following Zostavax II but causality was not established.
- **CDC**: Vaccine can be administered after the acute stage and symptoms/rash have subsided, no specific time frame.
- **History of HZ**: patients can be vaccinated. In theory, prior episodes of HZ ↑immunity & ↓ likelihood of recurrences, but observational evidence is contradictory.20,21 A recent study reports the risk of recurrence is ↓ for 12 to 18 months after having HZ so vaccination could be delayed by ≥1 year to take advantage of this natural immunity.20 (Persons with a history of herpes zoster or had herpes zoster vaccination were excluded from ZOE-50 and ZOE-70 trials.)

How is Shingrix supplied? What is the dosage and how is it administered? 1-3,5

- Supplied as 2 vials: (1) single dose lyophilized gE powder and (2) adjuvant suspension vials both refrigerated (2-8°C) and protected from light.
- Reconstitute prior to administration: **Administer vaccine promptly**. If this is not possible, store in refrigerator (2-8°C) and use within 6 hours. Discard if not used within 6 hours. The reconstituted vaccine is an opalescent, colourless to pale brownish liquid. Discard if frozen.
- Before administration: withdraw the reconstituted vaccine into a sterile syringe and attach a new needle to use for the injection.
- 2 doses of 0.5 mL each; an initial dose at Month 0 followed by a second dose administered between 2 months and 6 months later.
- **Intramuscular (IM) injection only**, preferably in the deltoid muscle.

Uncertainties

- Can the non-live herpes zoster vaccine be effective and safe in frail elderly or immunocompromised patients over the long term? *expert opinion says “yes”*
- Of those in the vaccinated group who do get shingles, are severity and complications reduced? *Is efficacy retained over longer term?*
- As more severe PHN is likely the most important issue, to what extent were the more severe/persistent PHN cases prevented?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of Shingrix vs. Zostavax?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages of Shingrix</th>
<th>Disadvantages of Shingrix</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-live vaccine – option for immunocompromised persons</td>
<td>Higher reactogenicity, more injection site reactions (pain, redness, swelling), systemic reactions (fatigue, myalgia, headache, shivering, fever, GI symptoms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher efficacy rate (91% vs. 51%), although different patient population studied</td>
<td>More local redness and swelling (&gt;100mm) &amp; Grade 3 systemic reactions (prevents normal activity) that last for an average median of 1-2 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easier storage requirements (refrigerate, can last up to 6 hours in refrigerator after reconstituted). If inadvertently left out of fridge &amp; then put back in fridge, it is stable at room temperature for up to 72hr.</td>
<td>2-dose schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More cost-effective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zostavax contains gelatin &amp; neomycin, which may induce reaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zostavax is administered SC. Shingrix is administered IM – this could be an advantage or disadvantage, depending on personal preference</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Shingles Extras 27,22:

- Antivirals (e.g. valacyclovir 1g TID or acyclovir 800mg 5x/day) x 7 days $70; effective in shingles treatment for age >50 if used within 24-72hrs of rash onset.
- See RxFiles Zostavax Q&A.
- See RxFiles Chronic Non-Cancer Pain chart for PHN pain treatment (11th Ed, pg 99) → e.g. nortriptyline, gabapentin, opioid, capsaicin.
- See RxFiles Adult Vaccines Chart (11th ed, pg 77).
Additional articles:
Le P, Rothberg M. Herpes zoster infection. BMJ. 2019 Jan 10;364:k3095.

References: Inactivated Herpes Zoster Vaccine (SHINGRIX)

2 Shingrix Monograph, RxTx, accessed December 28, 2017
19 Update on Herpes Zoster Vaccine: licensure for persons aged 50 through 59 years. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) November 11, 2011 / 60(44);1528-1528 http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6044a5.htm.