

VACCINE ADMINISTRATION ERRORS INVOLVING RECOMBINANT ZOSTER VACCINE

TAKEN FROM MMWR'S "NOTES FROM THE FIELD":
[HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/MMWR/VOLUMES/67/WR/
MM6720A4.HTM](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6720a4.htm)

Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition meeting
6/4/2018

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Herpes Zoster Vaccines

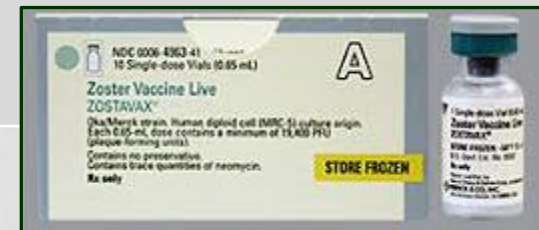
RZV (Shingrix)

- Stored in the **refrigerator**
- Requires reconstitution with liquid adjuvant supplied by the manufacturer
- Administered **IM**
- **2 dose series at 0 & 2-6 months**
- **Preferential recommendation for those ≥ 50 years.**



ZVL (Zostavax)

- Stored in the **freezer**
- Requires reconstitution with liquid diluent supplied by the manufacturer
- Administered **SQ as a single dose**
- **Recommended for those ≥ 60 years.**



VAERS REPORTS

- 155 reports involving Shingrix (RZV) in the first 4 months of RZV monitoring
 - 13/155 (8%) reports documented administration errors (some reports documented more than one error)
 - 9/13 reports involved RZV being given by SQ route rather than IM
 - 8/9 described injection site reactions of pain, erythema and pruritus
 - 2/13 reports documented inappropriate age (39 & 48)
 - 2/13 received VIS for ZVL and were not instructed to come back for second dose

VAERS REPORTS (CONT.)

- 13 (8%) reports documented administration errors (some reports documented more than one error)
 - 1/13 reports documented administration of ZVL instead of RZV
 - 1/13 reports documented administration of RZV after incorrect frozen storage
 - 1/13 reports documented the administration of only the adjuvant component without reconstitution with the vaccine antigen

LESSONS LEARNED

- Shingrix (RZV) has different storage and administration requirements than Zostavax (ZVL).
- Be sure Shingrix (RZV) is:
 - stored in the refrigerator not freezer
 - reconstituted correctly with adjuvant supplied
 - administered via the IM route
- Always report any adverse events and administration errors to VAERS.
- Ensure patients receiving Shingrix (RZV) are:
 - counseled about the possibility of local site reactions and side effects that could disrupt regular activities for a few days
 - encouraged to still receive their second vaccination dose as recommended

ERROR REPORTING

- **Report all vaccine adverse events** to VAERS at vaers.hhs.gov or (800) 822-7967.
- **Report vaccine administration errors** (e.g., wrong route, wrong dose, and wrong age) to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) via the Vaccine Error Reporting Program (VERP) website <http://ismp.org>. Vaccine administration errors should also be reported to VAERS (as described above), and **MUST** be reported if they resulted in an adverse event.

REFERENCES

- Information on Shingrix:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/shingles/hcp/shingrix/index.html>
- American Pharmacists Association. Zoster Vaccines – Key Points to Be Aware of Regarding Differences:
<http://www.pharmacist.com/sites/default/files/files/2018ZosterVaccinesChartv9Final.pdf>
- “Ask The Experts”, Shingles:
http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_zos.asp
- Information on vaccine administration by intramuscular injection:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/infographics/cal-the-shots.html>