

The Shingles Vaccine and Kidney Disease



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SYMPTOMS OF SHINGLES

- Fever and chills
- Headache and sensitivity to light
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Painful rash

COMPLICATIONS OF SHINGLES

- Chronic nerve and skin pain
- Eye infections
- Skin infection
- Neurological problems
- Reduced kidney function

SHINGLES VACCINE DOSAGE AND TIMING RECOMMENDATIONS

- **2 doses of RZV* 2-6 months apart** for people over the age of 18 **who are or will be immunocompromised** and all adults over the age of 50.

KIDNEY PATIENT (PRE-DIALYSIS)

- As above.

DIALYSIS PATIENTS

- Recommended within 2 years of starting dialysis, regardless of age.

TRANSPLANT PATIENTS

- Recommended before the start of immunosuppressing medications or as soon as 3 months after surgery.

**RZV = Recombinant Zoster Vaccine*

If you had or have Shingles, you may need to wait at least 1 year until you can receive the vaccine. Talk to your healthcare team.

WHICH SHINGLES VACCINE SHOULD KIDNEY PATIENTS GET?

- RZV was authorized in Canada in 2017. It is the currently the only approved vaccine for Shingles**.
- All live Shingles vaccines were discontinued in 2023 in Canada.

SHINGLES VACCINE SAFETY FOR KIDNEY PATIENTS

- The Shingles vaccine is relatively new, so specific information for the kidney community is limited.
- Non-live vaccines have a long and established safety record for people with kidney disease.
- There is currently no evidence to suggest that Shingles vaccination would change or worsen kidney function. However, the Shingles infection can contribute to the worsening of CKD.

***Vaccine availability and coverage may vary across the country.*

Always follow the advice and recommendations of your healthcare team to determine which vaccines are right for you and when.