

ATAGI recommendation for the use of Shingrix in immunocompetent adults aged ≥ 50 years

Immunocompromised adults aged ≥ 50 years are recommended to receive Shingrix recombinant herpes zoster (HZ) vaccine for the prevention of HZ and associated complications.

Justification

- Shingrix has been shown to provide good protection against HZ, postherpetic neuralgia and HZ-related hospitalisation, in a small number of highly immunocompromised populations (haematopoietic stem cell transplantation and haematological malignancy).
- Compared with placebo, Shingrix results in a moderate to large increase in local/systemic reactogenicity, but little to no difference in serious adverse events, immune-mediated disease and unsolicited adverse events.
- The high efficacy of Shingrix against HZ and associated complications outweighs the increase in non-serious adverse events in immunocompromised populations.
- The live zoster vaccine is contraindicated in people with significant immunocompromise, making Shingrix the only suitable vaccine for prevention of HZ and associated complications in this population.
- While there is a lack of data on the efficacy of Shingrix in a broader range of immunocompromised groups, trials demonstrate a similarly robust immune response to the vaccine in a range of other immunocompromised populations (HIV, renal transplant, solid organ malignancies receiving immunosuppressant/cytotoxic medications) to support a recommendation for the vaccine's use in immunocompromised populations more generally.

Implementation considerations

- Immunocompromise can result from:
 - congenital or acquired disorders
 - disease
 - immunosuppressive medical treatment (current/recent).
- Before vaccination vaccine providers should counsel recipients regarding expected local and systemic reactogenicity. Vaccine recipients should be encouraged to complete the two-dose schedule even if they experience non-serious reactogenicity with the first dose.
- Vaccine recipients should be advised of the importance of completing the two-dose schedule for adequate level and duration of protection.
- Duration of protection beyond 2 years is currently uncertain in this population.
- Shingrix will be available in limited supply on a private prescription only.

Note: NCIRS is conducting GRADE in support of ATAGI and making pilot results available on the NCIRS website. Please read this document as a supplement to the [ATAGI statement on the clinical use of zoster vaccine in older adults](#).