



## INFORMATION FOR THE TRANSPLANT PROFESSIONAL

### NEW INACTIVATED SHINGLES VACCINE (SHINGRIX™, GSK)

***Reactivation of varicella (shingles) is a serious post-transplant complication. There are now two vaccines that have been approved by Health Canada for prevention of shingles.***

*The following communication is for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice for any patient. The below information is not an endorsement of any product or vendor.*

#### **Shingrix™ (Glaxo Smith Kline) is a new inactivated vaccine for the prevention of Shingles**

- It can be given to organ transplant candidates and recipients that are  $\geq 50$  years of age. There are limited data on the use of this vaccine in transplant recipients. It is mixed with an adjuvant before being given which may lead to greater injection-site reactions. Preliminary results of a multicenter trial in kidney transplant recipients show that the vaccine is immunogenic. Rates of graft rejection were similar in the vaccine vs. placebo groups (Vink, IDWeek Abstract, October 2017, San Diego).
- It is administered at two doses at 0 and 2-6 months
- As with other inactive vaccines, there is no waiting time after administration before proceeding with transplant. Patients should be at least 3 months post transplant to receive the vaccine to maximize its effectiveness.
- Patients should be VZV IgG POSITIVE to get Shingrix™. There are no published data for vaccine safety, efficacy, or number of doses needed in VZV IgG negative patients. Such patients could receive live varicella vaccine in the pre-transplant period.
- Patients should wait at least 1 year from a prior episode of shingles before being vaccinated.
- Shingrix™ may not be publicly funded at this time. The approximate cost is \$250 for the two doses. Pharmacies or family practice offices may offer the vaccine. It may be reasonable to wait for further published data in transplant recipients, statements by public health for the use of this vaccine as well as decisions regarding funding.
- Product Monograph: [http://ca.gsk.com/media/1350788/shingrix\\_pm-2017-10-13.pdf](http://ca.gsk.com/media/1350788/shingrix_pm-2017-10-13.pdf)

#### **Zostavax™ (Merck) is a live shingles vaccine that is funded in most Canadian jurisdictions.**

- This vaccine may ONLY BE GIVEN PRE-TRANSPLANT. If administered in this setting it is recommended that patients be on hold for transplant for 4 weeks to clear the potential viremia.
- This vaccine SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN POST-TRANSPLANT.
- It is a single dose vaccine given to patients aged 50 years and older.
- Patients may receive Shingrix™, regardless of whether they have received Zostavax™ pre-transplant. However, there should be some interval between vaccines although the exact interval has not yet been defined.
- Product Monograph: [https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd\\_pm/00042265.PDF](https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd_pm/00042265.PDF)