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**Shingrix vaccine**

The CDC and FDA have approved a new vaccine for shingles (Herpes zoster). Here are some important facts:

1. The vaccine is called Shingrix – it is an inactive, recombinant vaccine (not a live virus like the current Zostavax)
2. Shingrix is currently recommended for all adults age 50 and older – it is given as a series of two doses, two months apart.
3. It is expected to provide life-long protection, but as with any new vaccine or drug we will learn more in the future.
4. Shingrix is advised even for those who have received Zostavax as it provides much greater protection against shingles – perhaps > 97% (Zostavax may only protect about 80%)
5. Side effects from this vaccine are more common than with most other vaccines. Frequent side effects were: pain (78.0%), redness (38.1%), and swelling (25.9%); and myalgia/muscle pain (44.7%), fatigue (44.5%), headache (37.7%), shivering (26.8%), fever (20.5%), and gastrointestinal symptoms (17.3%), respectively.
6. The vaccine is expected to be very expensive – perhaps over \$150 per dose – insurance coverage for commercial insurance and Medicare/Medicaid are not known at this time.
7. The vaccine is not yet available – we will post a message when we have it in stock

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