Zoster Vaccine (Live Attenuated Viral Vaccine)
ZOSTAVAX® II     Supplier: Merck Canada Inc.

**INDICATIONS:** This vaccine is not publicly funded.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION BUT NOT PROVIDED FREE IN BC:**
- May be considered for immunocompetent individuals 50 years of age and older for the prevention of shingles when recombinant zoster vaccine (SHINGRIX®) is contraindicated or unavailable.

**DOSES AND SCHEDULE:**
Individuals 50 years of age and older: 1 dose given as 0.65 mL SC.

**ADMINISTRATION:**
- Product needs to be reconstituted. Use the diluent provided with the vaccine.
- Administer the entire volume of the reconstituted product.
- It is recommended that the vaccine be administered immediately after reconstitution to minimize loss of potency.

**BOOSTER DOSES:**
No booster doses are recommended at this time.

**SEROLOGICAL TESTING:**
Serological testing is not recommended before or after immunization.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**
1. History of anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of live zoster vaccine, or to any component of ZOSTAVAX® II.
2. Immunocompromised as a result of disease or therapy: consult the appropriate health care provider (either the primary care physician or nurse practitioner most familiar with the client’s current medical status or a medical specialist) and obtain approval regarding the appropriateness of live zoster vaccine administration to persons whose immune status may be suppressed as a result of disease or therapy.
4. Active untreated tuberculosis.
5. Pregnancy. Pregnancy should also be avoided for 3 months following live zoster immunization.

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**A** ZOSTAVAX® II is indicated for the prevention of shingles in patients with prior chickenpox infection. Given that nearly all Canadians eligible for this vaccine will have had prior varicella exposure, even if a diagnosis of varicella cannot be recalled, routine serological testing is not recommended. There is no known safety risk associated with vaccination of healthy individuals who are varicella-susceptible. However, if an individual is known to be serologically varicella susceptible, they should be immunized with 2 doses of varicella vaccine rather than zoster vaccine.

**B** Live zoster vaccine may be considered for those receiving topical, inhaled or low-dose immunosuppressive therapy.
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PRODUCT COMPONENTS:
Potential allergens: hydrolyzed porcine gelatin, neomycin, bovine calf serum.
Other components: sucrose, urea, monosodium L-glutamate monohydrate, sodium phosphate dibasic, potassium phosphate monobasic, potassium chloride, components of MRC-5 cells.

PRECAUTIONS:
• Delay immunization of individuals with severe acute illness until recovery.
• Live zoster vaccine should be given on the same day or delayed until 4 weeks after administration of any other live vaccine.
• Do TB skin testing on the same day as live zoster immunization, or delay TB skin testing for ≥ 4 weeks.
• Antiviral medications active against varicella zoster virus (VZV) (i.e., acyclovir, famciclovir, valacyclovir) taken less than 24 hours before or within 14 days after immunization may decrease vaccine effectiveness. A
• Live zoster vaccine should be used with precaution in those who are breastfeeding as there are no data on its use in this population and it is not known whether VZV is secreted in breast milk.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
• ZOSTAVAX® II may be administered at any time before, at the same time as, or after administration of any blood product including antibody-containing products.
• ZOSTAVAX® II may be administered at any time before, at the same time as, or after administration of influenza and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines.
• Individuals with a prior history of shingles can safely receive this vaccine. There should be an interval of at least 1 year between an episode of shingles and receipt of the vaccine.

ADVERSE EVENTS:
Local: pain, redness, swelling, itchiness, varicella-like rash at the injection site.
Systemic: headache.

A Individuals who inadvertently receive systemic antiviral therapy active against VZV within 24 hours before and 14 days after ZOSTAVAX® II immunization may benefit from a 2nd dose of vaccine 42 days later and after discontinuing antiviral therapy.