

Notice to Readers: Pneumococcal Vaccination for Cochlear Implant Recipients



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Vaccination against pneumococcal disease is recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for persons at increased risk for pneumococcal meningitis. Because preliminary data suggest a higher risk for pneumococcal meningitis in cochlear implant recipients, CDC recommends that all persons with cochlear implants receive age-appropriate vaccination against pneumococcal disease as recommended for other persons at high risk for invasive pneumococcal disease; recommendations will be reviewed after completion of the investigation. These persons should receive the 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate (Pneumovax[®]) or 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide (Pneumovax[®] and Pnu-Imune[®]) vaccine, or both, according to ACIP schedules for persons at high risk (4,5). During the current pneumococcal conjugate vaccine shortage, children aged <5 years with cochlear implants should be given the same priority for available vaccine as children in other high-risk groups (6). Additional information on the use of vaccines for cochlear implant recipients is available from CDC's National Immunization Program at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/issues/cochlear/cochlear-hcp.htm>.

References

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