Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Asplenia Vaccine Record

This information will help you keep track of the vaccines you'll need if your spleen is removed or weakened.

You're getting this resource because you:

- ☐ Have had, or will have, all or part of your spleen removed. This is called a splenectomy (spleh-NEK-toh-mee).
- ☐ Had radiation treatment that weakened your spleen so it can't fight infection as well as normal. This is called functional asplenia.

Your spleen is an important part of your body's immune system. Without a spleen or with a weakened spleen, you have a higher chance of getting a bacterial infection. You can help prevent these infections by getting recommended vaccines.

Vaccines and surgery

- If you know you're having surgery, get your vaccines at least 14 days before your surgery.
- If you had unplanned surgery, you must wait at least 14 days after your surgery to start getting your vaccines.

Types of vaccines

You will need several vaccines. Your healthcare provider will tell you which vaccines you should get. All of the vaccines are given as shots in your muscle.

- **Haemophilus B (Hib) Conjugate.** This vaccine helps prevent Hib disease. Hib disease is an illness that can cause meningitis (swelling in your brain and

spinal cord), pneumonia (inflammation that leads to fluid collecting in your lungs), and other serious illnesses. These illnesses can cause disability or death.

- **Pneumococcal.** This vaccine helps prevent infection by pneumococcal bacteria. Pneumococcal bacteria can cause pneumonia, meningitis, and other serious illnesses that can cause death.
- **Meningococcal.** This vaccine helps prevent meningitis. For broader protection, there are 3 meningococcal vaccines available: Penmenvy®, Menveo®, and Bexsero®.
    - Penmenvy is best if you're starting meningococcal vaccination. Alone, it protects against all the meningococcal types that Menveo and Bexsero protect against together.
    - If you have not started meningococcal vaccination, you should get 2 doses of Penmenvy, 6 months apart. If you're still at risk for infection after this, you will get Menveo and Bexsero as boosters.
    - If you already started meningococcal vaccination with Menveo and Bexsero, you should finish getting those.
        - Menveo is given as 2 doses, 12 weeks apart. Boosters are given every 5 years.
        - Bexsero is given as 2 doses, 6 months apart. If you got a second dose earlier than 6 months, you should get a third dose at least 4 months after the second dose. A booster is given 1 year later, then every 2 to3 years as needed.
- **Inactivated influenza.** This vaccine helps prevent the flu.
    - You should get the flu vaccine every year. It usually becomes available in the early fall.
    - You can get the flu vaccine with any of the other rounds of vaccines.

Vaccine record

You can't get all these vaccines at once. Because of that, they're split into rounds. Your healthcare provider will help decide what vaccines you'll get and when you'll get them. Tell your healthcare provider if you've already had any of these vaccines.

Bring this record when you see your primary care provider so your vaccines stay up to date.

Most people can get their first round of vaccines at MSK. After that, you can get the rest of your vaccines at your primary care provider's office. If your primary care provider has any questions, they can call your healthcare provider at MSK.

Vaccine	Date given	Date booster due	Revaccination
Haemophilus B Conjugate		None	None
Pneumococcal 20-valent Conjugate (PCV20)		None	None
Meningococcal (Penmenvy)		6 months after dose 1: _____	You will get Menveo and Bexsero if you are still at risk after finishing Penmenvy vaccination.
Meningococcal (Menveo)		12 weeks after dose 1: _____	Every 5 years.
Meningococcal (Bexsero)		6 months after dose 1: _____ If you got dose 2 earlier than 6 months, 4 months after dose 2: _____	1 year later, then every 2 to 3 years as needed.
Influenza		None	Every year.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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