



Communiqué

Starting school: Important facts about the four- to six-year-old booster shot

Children under age seven presenting for their four- to six-year-old booster shot are given Quadracel (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio). If the fourth dose, normally given at 18 months, was given after the fourth birthday, then it is not necessary to give the four- to six-year-old booster.



If the child presenting for the four- to six-year-old booster is seven or more, rather than giving a tetanus, diphtheria and polio booster, it is recommended to give Adacel and Inactivated Polio Vaccine. This would mean two separate needles, but would include a boost of the pertussis immunity. However, if this same child, had been given the third dose of polio after the fourth birthday, then Adacel only would be required.

Source: Publicly funded immunization Schedules for Ontario – January 2005
Canadian Immunization Guide Seventh Edition 2006

Gardasil™ – Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV)

Description

Gardasil™ is a recombinant, quadravalent vaccine that protects against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Types 6, 11, 16 and 18. Each 0.5 ml dose contains approximately 20 mcg of 6 LI protein, 40mcg of HPV 11 LI protein, 40 mcg of HPV 16 LI protein and 20 mcg of HPV 18 LI protein. Other ingredients used in the preparation of Gardasil™ are aluminum (as amorphous alu-

minum hydroxyphosphate sulphate adjuvant), sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate-80, sodium borate and water. The product does not contain a preservative or antibiotic. After thorough agitation, Gardasil™ is a white, cloudy liquid.

Indications and Clinical Use

Gardasil™ is indicated for use in girls and women nine to 26 years of age for the prevention of infection caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18 and the following diseases associated with these HPV types:

- Cervical cancer.
- Vulvar and vaginal cancer.
- Genital warts (condyloma accuminata).
- Cervical adenocarcinoma *in situ*.
- Cervical, vulvar or vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia grade 2 or grade 3.
- Cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade 1.

The safety and efficacy of Gardasil™ have not been evaluated in children younger than nine years or adults older than 26 years.

Contraindications

- Known hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.
- Symptoms of hypersensitivity after receiving a dose of Gardasil™ (Further doses should not be given.)

Warnings and Precautions

Gardasil™ is not intended to be used for treatment of active genital warts; cervical, vulvar or vaginal cancers; cervical, vulvar or vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia.

As with any vaccine, Gardasil™ may not result in protection in all vaccine recipients. Individuals with impaired immune response may have reduced antibody response to active immunization. No specific data from the use of Gardasil™ are available with these individuals.

Regardless of Gardasil™ administration, routine monitoring and Pap test should continue to be performed as indicated.

Use in pregnancy:

The use of Gardasil™ is not recommended in pregnancy. Females who become pregnant before completion of the three-dose schedule should complete the vaccination after childbirth.

Use in breastfeeding mothers:

Gardasil™ may be given to women who are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

Use with hormonal contraceptives:

In clinical studies, 57.5% of women (aged 16 to 26 years) who received Gardasil™ also used hormonal contraceptives. Use of hormonal contraceptives did not appear to affect the immune response to Gardasil™

Dosage and Administration

Gardasil™ should be administered in the deltoid muscle as follows:

- First dose – 0.5 ml IM on elected day.
- Second dose – 0.5 IM ml **two** months after first dose.
- Third dose – 0.5 ml IM **six** months after the first dose.

Packaging, Storage and Stability

Gardasil™ is supplied in a single dose (0.5 ml) vial or in a single dose (0.5 ml) pre-filled syringe with needle included. Vials and syringe components are latex free.

Refrigerate the vaccine at a temperature between 2°C and 8°C. Do not freeze. Protect from light.

Vaccine Cost

Gardasil™ is currently not a publicly funded vaccine, but can be purchased at a pharmacy with a prescription. The cost is approximately \$160 per dose (\$480 per series of three doses). Gardasil™ is covered under some drug plans.

Source: Gardasil™ Product Monograph October 14, 2006 Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.

Adult Immunization - They're NEVER too old to be immunized!

Getting immunized is a lifelong, life-protecting job. We put great emphasis on the immunization of children and young adults, but once they have finished their schooling, the importance of immunization somehow becomes history. Immunization status should be an integral part of the health assessment of any adult. Opportunities to provide vaccines to adults are being missed. It's important for health care professionals to make sure adults don't leave the office without first checking to see if they've had all the vaccinations they need.

Why do adults need immunization?

- Some vaccines don't provide lifelong protection. In order to be protected against tetanus and diphtheria, all adults need a booster shot every 10 years. All adults should get the influenza vaccine each year, especially those with high risk conditions, those 65 and older and health care workers.
- Some adults didn't get all the childhood vaccines recommended in Canada. These adults would be at high risk for disease in the event of an outbreak; therefore, it's important for them to be protected.

- New vaccines have become available in recent years. One example is varicella vaccine. This may be an important immunization for an adult who has never had chickenpox and is a health care worker, routinely works with small children or is likely to become pregnant.
- Adults may need vaccines when they travel to another country. Hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid fever, Japanese encephalitis and yellow fever are some vaccines that may be required for travel. The vaccines required will depend on where the travellers are going, type of accommodation and what they're planning to do. A travel health clinic has the most up-to-date information on vaccine requirements for foreign travel.
- Some jobs or lifestyles put people at risk for specific diseases that can be prevented by vaccines. Health care workers, emergency responders, laboratory workers and students in training for these jobs are at an increased risk of exposure to communicable diseases because of their contact with people or specimens from people who may carry disease. Not only could members of this higher-risk group become ill, they could also pass on diseases to sick or injured people who are at risk of serious complications from disease. People who live and work in residential homes, people who use street drugs and people with multiple sex partners are at higher risk for some diseases and could help prevent disease by getting the vaccines they need.

Some vaccines are publicly funded regardless of the recipient's age. These include tetanus, diphtheria, polio, measles, mumps, rubella and influenza vaccine (anyone six months of age and over). Some vaccines are funded for certain age groups or conditions. Some of these vaccines are pertussis, haemophilus B, pneumococcal, meningococcal, varicella, hepatitis A, hepatitis B and rabies.

Vaccines are not just for children. Let's get the adults immunized! This is a "gardening" time of year. Has it been 10 years since your adult patient had a tetanus booster?

Source: Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion, www.immunize.cpha.ca.

Communique is a newsletter distributed by the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit for those who work in the area of Vaccines and Vaccine Preventable Diseases. If you have ideas or suggestions of topics for future Communiqués, please contact



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