

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT
VARICELLA VIRUS VACCINE
(VARIVAX)**

Varicella (chickenpox) is a highly contagious disease in children, adolescents, and adults. It is caused by the Varicella zoster virus which is spread from person to person direct contact, droplet, or airborne spread of respiratory secretions from an infected person. It is usually a benign disease but can be associated with serious complications such as pneumonia, encephalitis, Reye's syndrome, and / or death. It is ordinarily a more serious disease of adults and children. Past infection provides immunity; second attacks are very rare. In some persons the virus may appear years later as Herpes zoster (shingles), particularly in older adults.

VARIVAX is a live, attenuated varicella virus vaccine which is given by subcutaneous injection. In clinical trials, the vaccine induced measurable immune responses in a high proportion of individuals and was generally well tolerated by healthy persons from 12 months to 55 years of age. The majority of people who received the vaccine and then were exposed to chicken pox were either completely protected or developed a milder form of the disease. This represents an approximate 70% reduction in transmission compared to unvaccinated persons exposed to a household contact with chickenpox.

SIDE EFFECTS:

VARIVAX is indicated for vaccination against varicella in individuals 12 months of age and older. The most frequently reported side effects during clinical trials were pain, redness, and/ or swelling at the injection site; fever has also been reported. A chickenpox-like rash occurring at the injection site was reported from 4% of vaccine recipients in one study. A similar percentage reported a generalized varicella-like rash.

Reported by less than 1% of vaccine recipients were upper respiratory symptoms: (cough, irritability / nervousness, fatigue, gastrointestinal symptoms, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, abdominal pain, headache, malaise, hives, and a stiff neck.) Whether these reports were directly related to the vaccine has not been determined.

DOSAGE:

Adults aged 13 years and older should receive one 0.5ml dose given by subcutaneous injection; then receive a second identical dose 4 to 8 weeks later.

PRECAUTIONS:

- It is not known whether Varivax given immediately after exposure to varicella will prevent disease.
- After receiving Varivax, any Immune Globulin including VZIG should not be given for 2 months.
- Vaccine recipients should avoid the use of SALICYLATES (aspirin and aspirin containing products) for 6 weeks after vaccination because Reye's syndrome has been reported after using aspirin during natural varicella infection.
- Vaccine recipients may potentially be capable of transmitting the vaccine virus to close contacts; therefore the recipient should avoid close contact with susceptible high risk individuals (newborns, pregnant women, and immunocompromised persons.)
- Vaccine recipients should report any adverse reactions to their health care providers.

PREGNANCY:

The possible effects of the vaccine on fetal development are unknown at present. However, natural infection with varicella is known to sometimes cause fatal harm. Varivax should not be administered to pregnant women. Pregnancy should be avoided for 3 months after vaccination. Varivax should not be administered to a nursing mother unless advised by a physician.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT RECEIVING THIS VACCINE, PLEASE ASK US OR CALL YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE YOU SIGN THIS FORM.

WARNINGS:

SOME PERSONS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS VACCINE WITHOUT CHECKING WITH THEIR DOCTOR.

- Anyone sick right now with something more than a cold.
- Anyone with active tuberculosis.

- Anyone whose immune system is suppressed for any of the following reasons:
 - A disease or condition that lowers the body's resistance to infection.
 - Drugs that lower the body's resistance to infection including steroids and some anti-cancer drugs.
- Anyone who has cancer, leukemia or lymphoma.
- Anyone who is sensitive or allergic to any ingredient in the vaccine:
 - Neomycin
 - Sucrose
 - Phosphate
 - Glutamate
 - Gelatin
- Anyone who has had a severe allergic reaction to any other vaccine.

Anyone who has received any IMMUNE GLOBULIN including VARICELLA ZOSTER IMMUNE GLOBULIN (VZIG) in the previous 5 months. Also, anyone who has received blood or plasma in the past 5 months.