



The Presbyterian Board of Governors
Cochlear Implant Center of Excellence at GBMC
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Recommended Vaccinations for Cochlear Implant Recipients

Cochlear implant candidates, and those already implanted, may be at greater risk of meningitis. Meningitis is an infection of the lining of the surface of the brain and spinal cord. Early symptoms in infants and young children include irritability, fever, lethargy, and loss of appetite. Headache, stiff neck, confusion or nausea and vomiting may be symptoms in older children and adults. Children under the age of 5 and elderly are more vulnerable to meningitis.

Cochlear implant candidates may benefit from vaccinations against the organisms that commonly cause bacterial meningitis. It is recommended that patients receive vaccinations prior to surgery. Patients with an existing implant should be vaccinated as well if this was not done prior to surgery. The following is a list of CDC recommended vaccinations for cochlear implant recipients. Individuals with hearing loss should discuss questions about possible ear abnormalities and their risk for vaccine-preventable diseases with an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) physician or primary care physician.

- **UNDER 2 YEARS OF AGE:**

- **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines (PCVs)**, including PCV15 or PCV20 according to the Childhood Immunization Schedule.
- **H. influenzae type b (Hib meningitis) vaccines** according to the Childhood Immunization Schedule.
 - Children who had Hib meningitis when they were younger than 2 years old may need more shots of a Hib vaccine. It depends on their current age.

- **2 YEARS THROUGH 18 YEARS OLD**

- **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines (PCVs)**
 - If at least one dose was PCV20, then no other pneumococcal vaccines are recommended.
 - If none of those doses were PCV20, then one more dose (either PCV20 or PPSV23) is recommended.
 - Children 6 through 18 years old with cochlear implants who have never received a PCV should get vaccinated:
 - Either PCV15 or PCV20 is recommended.
 - If PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of PPSV23 unless given previously.
- **H. influenzae type b (Hib meningitis) vaccines: < 5 years of age**

- Children younger than 5 years of old should receive Hib Vaccines according to the Childhood Immunization Schedule.
- Children who had Hib meningitis when they were 2 years or older do not need more shots of a Hib vaccine.
- Data do not suggest older children with cochlear implants need a Hib vaccination. **CDC does not recommend Hib vaccination for children with cochlear implants.**

- **Meningococcal Vaccines: Pre-Teens/ Teens**

- All preteens and teens should receive a MenACWY vaccine according to the Preteen/Teen Immunization Schedule.
- Teens may also receive a MenB vaccine. A MenACWY vaccine is an option only when a preteen or teen is getting MenACWY and MenB vaccines at the same visit.

****Children should get all recommended shots of pneumococcal and Hib vaccines at least 2 weeks before cochlear implant surgery. This will provide maximum protection both during and after surgery. Children already up to date with pneumococcal and Hib vaccination do not need extra shots before surgery.***

• **18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER:**

- **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines (PCVs)**

- All adults with cochlear implants who have never received pneumococcal vaccines should receive 1 shot of PCV15 or PCV20. If PCV15 is used, it should be followed by 1 shot of PPSV23. Talk to your doctor about when you should get these vaccines.

- **H. influenzae type b (Hib meningitis) vaccines – Not recommended.**

- Data do not suggest adults with cochlear implants need a Hib vaccination. **CDC does not recommend Hib vaccination for adults with cochlear implants.**

****Adults should get all recommended shots of pneumococcal vaccines at least 2 weeks before cochlear implant surgery. This will provide maximum protection both during and after surgery. Adults already up to date with pneumococcal vaccination do not need extra shots before surgery.***

These vaccinations should be given only by your primary care physician. Be sure to notify your doctor that these vaccines will be needed for your appointment, as they are not always in stock and may need to be ordered. Ask your doctor for more information about these vaccines, including side effects and risks. Cochlear implant manufacturers offer reimbursement for vaccinations if they are not covered by your health insurance.

For additional information, visit the National Vaccine Program Office of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/public/dis-cochlear-faq-gen.html>

Maryland Vaccination Services

Debra Coomes, M.D.

Ruxton Towers, Room 317

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Phone: (410) 879-4977 Fax: (410) 879-4901

Appointment Availability:

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Tuesday & Thursday: 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am to 11:00am

Vaccines Available:

Pneumovax 23 (Valent)— Approx \$105

Prevnar (13-Valent)— Approx \$200

Hib— Approx \$95

NOTE: This facility does not accept insurance. They will provide you with a receipt that includes all CPT codes needed for reimbursement by your insurance company and/or manufacturer.