

The Medical Letter[®]

on Drugs and Therapeutics

Objective Drug Reviews Since 1959

Volume 56

October 13, 2014

ISSUE No.

1453

IN THIS ISSUE

In Brief: PCV13 for Adults ≥ 65 Years Old..... p 102

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IN BRIEF

PCV13 for Adults ≥ 65 Years Old

Note: An **addendum** to this article has been published

The US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) now recommends routine immunization with 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13; *Prenar 13*), in addition to the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23; *Pneumovax 23*), for all adults ≥ 65 years old.¹

An unpublished, randomized, double-blind trial (CAPiTA) in about 85,000 adults ≥ 65 years old found that vaccination with PCV13 reduced first episodes of vaccine-type community-acquired pneumonia and invasive pneumococcal disease by 46% and 75%, respectively, compared to placebo.²

Adults ≥ 65 years old who previously received ≥ 1 dose of PPSV23 should also receive PCV13, but at least one year after the last dose of PPSV23. For those receiving the pneumococcal vaccine for the first time, PCV13 should be given first, followed 6-12 months later by PPSV23. PCV13 can be given at the same time as an inactivated influenza vaccine. Currently, Medicare only pays for one lifetime dose of a pneumococcal vaccine for healthy patients. ■

1. S Tomczyk et al. Use of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine among adults aged ≥ 65 years: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2014; 63:822.
2. M Bonten et al. Community acquired pneumonia immunisation trial in adults (CAPITA). Abstract #O-015. International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases 2014. Available at: http://isppd.meetingxpert.net/ISPPD_433/poster_90453/program.aspx/anchor90453. Accessed Octo-

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Objective Drug Reviews Since 1959

Volume 57 (Issue 1479)

October 12, 2015

Addendum: PCV13 for Adults 65 Years and Older (Med Lett Drugs Ther 2014; 56:102)

In 2014, the US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that all adults 65 years old and older being vaccinated against pneumococcus for the first time receive the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) followed 6 to 12 months later by the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23). In June 2015, the ACIP changed the recommended interval between the two vaccines to >1 year for immunocompetent adults ≥65 years old (MMWR Morbid Mortal Wkly Rep 2015; 674:944). Separating the vaccines by a year or more may improve the immune response to the serotypes in both vaccines. If a dose of PPSV23 is given earlier than the recommended interval, it does not need to be repeated.

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