



AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

Research. Advocacy. Awareness.

Resources on Cochlear Implants and Meningitis Vaccination

Meningitis is an inflammation of the protective lining covering the brain and spinal cord. There are several types of meningitis, but the most common types are a result of a bacterial or viral infection. Some forms of meningitis are preventable by [immunization](#).

Because people who receive cochlear implants are more susceptible to meningitis, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends pneumococcal vaccinations for adults and for children who have cochlear implants or are cochlear implant candidates to help prevent a bacterial meningitis infection. Though such infections are rare, they are serious and hence it is important for cochlear implant candidates to pursue the recommended vaccination program prior to their surgery.

- The (CDC) recommends that all cochlear implant candidates or recipients receive pneumococcal vaccination on the same schedule that is recommended for other groups at increased risk for invasive pneumococcal disease.
- The types of pneumococcal vaccinations vary with age and an individual's vaccination history. Discuss the recommended vaccine with a health care provider or cochlear implant surgeon.
- The pneumococcal vaccine is a two-shot series. The time between the initial doses(s) and the first booster varies based on age and vaccine history.
- For both children and adults, the vaccination schedule should be completed two weeks or more before surgery.

ACI Alliance encourages cochlear implant recipients and candidates to talk with their cochlear implant surgeon about completing the full vaccine series to minimize the risk of pneumococcal meningitis. A number of excellent resources are available and listed below.

American Academy of Otolaryngology: <http://www.entnet.org/content/cochlear-meningitis-vaccination>

Centers for Disease Control Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations:
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/m2e731a1.htm>
<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2015.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control on Meningitis in Children:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/hcp/dis-cochlear-gen.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/cochlear/dis-cochlear-faq-hcp.htm>