



October 2011

Community and Health Services Department



Prevnar® 13, Pneumo® 23 and Pneumovax® 23 Vaccines

(Pneumococcal Vaccine)

Prevnar® 13, Pneumovax® 23 and Pneumo® 23 are vaccines that protect against pneumococcal disease.

Information sheet

Prevnar® 13 is for infants and children up to 9 years of age

- It protects against 13 strains of pneumococcal disease
- If the immunizations are started in infancy, three doses of vaccine are required for complete protection of children at low risk, and are usually given at 2, 4, and 12 months of age. High-risk children are given four doses at 2, 4, 6 and 15 months.
- It is given in the thigh in infants, and in the upper arm in children over 1 year

Side effects may include:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
- Fever, lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, drowsiness, irritability

Severe side effects are rare.

People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have a fever or are fighting a recent infection
- Have blood-clotting disorders
- Have an allergy to aluminum
- Are 6 years of age or older

Pneumovax® 23 or Pneumo® 23 are given to children over 2 years and adults

- Each vaccine protects against 23 strains of pneumococcal disease
- Each vaccine is given in the upper arm to adults and children at high risk, adults over 65 years, or residents in facilities
- One dose of vaccine is required, except in certain people at high risk who may need a booster dose after 3 to 5 years

Side effects may include:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
 - Fever, fatigue, headache, a feeling of being unwell
- Severe side effects are rare.

People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have a fever or are fighting a recent infection
- Have an allergy to disodium phosphate, monosodium phosphate, or phenol
- Are younger than 2 years of age
- Have received one of these vaccines within the last 3 years

Pneumococcal disease

- Usually starts with an ear, sinus or lung infection
- Depending on the location of the infection, the person may have fever, pain, difficulty breathing, phlegm production, and chest pain
- Infection can also invade the bloodstream, affecting the lungs, heart, bones, joints and skin
- Can lead to meningitis, brain damage, bone infections, arthritis, pneumonia or death
- Young children and the elderly are most at risk for severe complications of the illness
- Spreads from person to person through droplets from the mouth, nose and throat of an infected person, through coughing, sneezing, kissing or sharing toys. Up to 40% of people can be healthy carriers of the bacteria

For further information, please call:

York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653

TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca