What is Shingles?

Shingles is a serious disease caused by the reactivation of the varicella zoster virus (VZV), the same virus that causes chickenpox.\(^1\)

The Aging Immune System and Vaccines

- Weakened immunity in older adults presents a continuing challenge in adult vaccination.\(^5\)
- As we age, the ability of our immune system to mount a strong and effective response to infection declines meaning that after the age of 50, a person’s risk for shingles increases.\(^1,3\)
- Age-related decline in immunity is recognized as an important risk factor for shingles.\(^1\)

The Typical Symptoms of Shingles

- Rash – a painful, itchy rash often develops on one side of the body.\(^2\)
- The pain associated with shingles is often described as burning, stabbing or shock-like, and it may be severe and accompanied by itching.\(^1,3\)
- The rash can last between 2-4 weeks.\(^3\)
- Even once the rash is gone, a person can experience postherpetic neuralgia (PHN) – pain that can last for months or years.\(^3\)
- Up to 30% of patients experience PHN.\(^4\)

The Facts About Shingles

One in three: the estimated individual lifetime risk of developing shingles\(^1\)

>90%

The percentage of individuals over the age of 50 who have had chickenpox and are at risk for shingles\(^6\)

\(~130,000\)

The estimated number of new shingles cases each year in Canada\(^8\)


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