

## **Recommended Vaccinations for Cochlear Implant and CSF Leak Patients** (Please read carefully)

Vaccination of cochlear implant candidates or CSF leak patients is important to reduce the chance of **bacterial meningitis**. Adults should be vaccinated against a bacteria called pneumococcus, and children need to be vaccinated against pneumococcus and H. influenza type B (Hib). All patients should also have received age-appropriate vaccinations. Ideally, patients should receive at least one vaccine at least **2 weeks prior to surgery**. If this has not happened and your surgery is scheduled in less than 2 weeks, please let your surgeon know.

There are several different pneumococcal vaccines: Prevnar-13 (also called PCV-13), Prevnar-15 (also called PCV-15), Prevnar-20 (also called PCV-20), and Pneumovax-23 (also called PPSV-23). See below to see which ones you will need.

**Please note: these meningitis vaccines also help prevent pneumonia, and they are more commonly known in the medical community for their pneumonia prevention.** Many providers who are not familiar with ear surgery may not realize that these vaccines are indicated prior to cochlear implant surgery. As such, if you are told these are only for pneumonia prevention (they are wrong) and **you need to still get the vaccines!**

### **Children <6 years old:**

- This age group should receive all age-appropriate pneumococcal and Hib vaccines. Please consult with your pediatrician to make sure your child has received all age-appropriate pneumococcal and Hib vaccines.
- In addition, if your child is between the ages of 2 and 6, a single dose of PPSV-23 should be administered.

### **Children 6-18 years of age:**

- If your child has received at least one dose of PCV-13 or PCV-15 but has not received the PPSV-23 vaccines, then your child needs one dose of PPSV-23 at least 8 weeks after the last dose of PCV-13 or PCV-15.
- If your child received at least one dose of PCV-13 or PCV-15 AND received at least one dose of PPSV-23 after 2 years of age, your child does not need any more vaccines until 18 years of age.
- The Hib vaccine is not typically administered for children >5 years of age since most older children and adults are immune to Hib even if they were not previously vaccinated.

### **Adults:**

- For adults who have never received a pneumococcal vaccine, the CDC recommends either one dose of PCV-20, or PCV-15 followed by PPSV-23 at least 8 weeks after the PCV-15 vaccine.
- For adults who have previously received a pneumococcal vaccine, the recommendations are as follows:
  - o If you received PCV-13 only, then you need to receive PCV-20 at least 1 year after the PCV-13.
  - o If you received PPSV-23 only, then you need to receive PCV-20 or PCV-15 at least 1 year after the PPSV-23.
  - o If you received BOTH PCV-13 and PPSV-23, then you need to receive PCV-20 at least 5 years after your last pneumococcal vaccine dose.

**After cochlear implantation, we recommend revaccination with PPSV-23 every 7 years.**