

# SHINGRIX

50 micrograms powder and 50 micrograms adjuvant suspension for suspension for injection

Recombinant Varicella Zoster Virus glycoprotein E Vaccine

## New Zealand Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using SHINGRIX. This leaflet answers some common questions about SHINGRIX. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

All medicines and vaccines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you receiving SHINGRIX against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking SHINGRIX, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with the vaccine**

You may need to read it again.

### What SHINGRIX is used for

SHINGRIX is a vaccine that helps to protect adults against herpes zoster (also called shingles) as well as the long-lasting nerve pain that can follow shingles called post-herpetic neuralgia or PHN.

SHINGRIX can be given to:

- adults from the age of 50 years and above
- adults from the age of 18 years and above who are at increased risk of shingles.

**What is shingles and what are the complications related to shingles?**

Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. After you

have had chickenpox (primary varicella infection), the virus that caused it stays in your body in nerve cells. Sometimes, after many years, the virus can become active again and causes shingles (secondary varicella infection).

SHINGRIX cannot be used to prevent chickenpox (primary varicella infection). Shingles is a painful, blistering rash. It usually occurs in one part of the body and can last for several weeks. It may lead to complications such as long-lasting pain (PHN) and scarring. Less commonly, bacterial skin infections, weakness, muscle paralysis, loss of hearing or vision can occur.

**What is post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN)?**

After the shingles blisters heal, pain can last for months or years and may be severe. This long-lasting nerve pain is called PHN. PHN is the most common complication of shingles.

**How does the vaccine work?**

SHINGRIX helps your body to build its own protection against shingles and its complications. SHINGRIX cannot be used to treat shingles or the pain associated with shingles. It is for the protection against shingles only.

As with all vaccines, SHINGRIX may not fully protect all people who are vaccinated.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

### Before you are given SHINGRIX

**When you must not be given SHINGRIX**

Do not have SHINGRIX if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to any of the ingredients contained in SHINGRIX. Signs of an allergic reaction may include itchy skin rash, shortness of breath and swelling of the face or tongue. Tell your doctor if you have experienced any of these symptoms with a previous dose of SHINGRIX or any other vaccine or medicine.

**Do not use this vaccine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

**If you are not sure whether you should receive SHINGRIX, talk to your doctor.**

**Before being given SHINGRIX**

**Tell your doctor or nurse before you receive SHINGRIX:**

- if you have an infection with a high temperature. In these cases, the vaccination may be postponed until recovery. A minor infection such as a cold should not be a problem, but talk to your doctor first.
- if you have a bleeding problem or bruise easily.

- if you fainted with a previous injection. Fainting can occur following, or even before, any needle injection.
- if you have been told by your doctor that you have a weakened immune system as a result of a disease, medications, (including high-dose corticosteroids or cancer medicines), or other treatment.

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breast-feeding.**

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you receive SHINGRIX.**

### ***Taking other medicines***

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines and SHINGRIX may interfere with each other.

### ***Having other vaccines***

**Tell your doctor or nurse if you have received another vaccine recently.**

**Some vaccines may be affected by other vaccines.**

SHINGRIX can be given at the same time as the unadjuvanted yearly influenza (flu) vaccine, 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV23) vaccine\* or reduced antigen diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (dTpa) vaccine. If SHINGRIX is given at the same time as another vaccine, a different injection site will be used for each vaccine.

\*If SHINGRIX is given at the same time as PPV23 vaccine, you may be

more likely to experience fever and/or shivering.

## **How SHINGRIX is given**

The doctor or nurse will give SHINGRIX as an injection.

**If you have any concerns about how this vaccine is to be given, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.**

### ***How it is given***

SHINGRIX is given as an injection of 0.5 ml into a muscle (usually in the upper arm).

### ***When it is given***

You will receive 2 injections 2 to 6 months apart. Based on your medical condition, your doctor may recommend that you receive the second injection 1 month after the first injection.

You will be informed when you should come back for the second dose of SHINGRIX.

Make sure you finish the complete vaccination course. This will maximise the protection offered by SHINGRIX.

SHINGRIX can be given if you have already been vaccinated with a live attenuated herpes zoster vaccine. Speak to your doctor for more information.

### ***If a dose is missed***

If you miss a scheduled dose, talk to your doctor or nurse and arrange another visit as soon as possible.

**If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.**

## **While being given SHINGRIX**

### ***Things you must do***

Keep the follow up visits with the doctor or clinic. Make sure you finish the complete vaccination course. This will maximise the protection offered by SHINGRIX.

### ***Things to be careful of***

There is no information on whether SHINGRIX affects the ability to drive or use machines.

However, do not drive or use machines if you are feeling unwell.

## **Side effects**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well during or after having had a dose of SHINGRIX.**

This vaccine helps protect most people from shingles, but it may have unwanted side effects in some people. All medicines and vaccines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them.**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

The following side effects may occur after receiving SHINGRIX:

**Very common (these may occur with more than 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine):**

- headache
- stomach and digestive complaints (including nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and/or stomach pain)
- muscle pain (myalgia)
- pain, redness and swelling at the injection site

- tiredness, chills, fever

**Common (these may occur with up to 1 in 10 doses of the vaccine):**

- injection site itching (pruritus)
- generally feeling unwell

**Uncommon (these may occur with up to 1 in 100 doses of the vaccine):**

- joint pain (arthralgia)

**If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, tell your doctor or pharmacist.**

As with all vaccines given by injection there is a very small risk of serious allergic reaction. Contact your doctor immediately or go to the casualty department of your nearest hospital if any of the following happens:

- swelling of limbs, face, eyes, inside of nose, mouth or throat
- shortness of breath, breathing or swallowing difficulties
- hives, itching (especially of the hands or feet), reddening of skin (especially around the ears), or severe skin reactions
- unusual tiredness or weakness that is sudden and severe

Allergy to SHINGRIX is rare (may occur with up to 1 in 1,000 doses of the vaccine). Any such severe reactions will usually occur within the first few hours of vaccination. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell during or after a dose of vaccine.

If you are aged 50 to 69 years you are more likely to experience side effects such as pain and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, myalgia, headache, shivering, fever and gastrointestinal symptoms, compared to if you are 70 years and older.

If you are at increased risk of shingles, you are more likely to experience side effects such as pain at the injection site, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, shivering and fever if you are between the ages of 18 to 49

years, compared to if you are 50 years and older.

Other side effects not listed above, can also occur during or soon after a dose of SHINGRIX.

**Check with your doctor or nurse if you have any other side effects.**

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## How to store SHINGRIX

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### Storage

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Store in a refrigerator (2°C – 8°C) Do not freeze.
- Store in the original package in order to protect from light.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the label and carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

### Disposal

**Ask your pharmacist what to do with any SHINGRIX that has expired or has not been used.**

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## Product description

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### What it looks like

The powder is white.  
The suspension is an opalescent, colourless to pale brownish liquid.

One pack of SHINGRIX consists of:

- Powder for 1 dose in a vial
- Suspension for 1 dose in a vial

SHINGRIX is available in pack sizes of:

- 1 vial of powder plus 1 vial of suspension
- 10 vials of powder plus 10 vials of suspension.

## Ingredients

1 dose (0.5 mL) of SHINGRIX contains 50 micrograms of glycoprotein E (gE) powder mixed with AS01B adjuvant suspension.

gE is a protein present in the Varicella Zoster Virus. This protein is not infectious.

The adjuvant is composed of a plant extract (Quillaja saponaria saponin (QS-21) (50 micrograms) and a bacterial extract (3-O-desacyl-4'-monophosphoryl lipid A (MPL) (50 micrograms)) and is used to improve the body's response to the vaccine.

The other ingredients are:

### Powder

- Sucrose
- Polysorbate 80
- Monobasic sodium phosphate dihydrate
- Dibasic potassium phosphate

### Suspension

- Dioleoylphosphatidylcholine
- Cholesterol
- Sodium chloride
- Dibasic sodium phosphate
- Monobasic potassium phosphate
- Water for injections

### Supplier

GlaxoSmithKline NZ Limited  
Private Bag 106600  
Downtown  
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