



## Recommended Meningitis Vaccinations Prior to Cochlear Implantation

### **Pneumococcal Vaccination:**

Two different types of vaccines are available for immunization against pneumococcus (meningitis), the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax 23, Pnu-Imune© 23) and the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Pevnar©).

Cochlear implant recipients 5 years and older (including adults) generally should be vaccinated with the polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax or Pnu-Imune). A single additional dose of the same vaccine generally should be considered if the last dose was administered more than 5 years ago. Your doctor can help in this discussion if needed.

- The 23-valent vaccine is recommended by the Center for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) for all persons 5 years of age and older who are at increased risk for pneumococcal disease.

**Cochlear Implant recipients 24 to 59 months of age generally should be vaccinated both with Pevnar and with the 23-valent vaccine (Pneumovax or Pnu-Immune).**

- According to the various recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control ACIP and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), children 24 to 59 months of age who are at increased risk for pneumococcal disease should be vaccinated.
- The AAP recommends an additional dose of the 23-valent vaccine 3 to 5 years after the first dose of the 23-valent vaccine.
- If no prior pneumococcal vaccination has been administered, then your doctor may consider administration of a dose of the 23-valent vaccine first. In this case, the 23-valent vaccine should be followed no less than 2 months later by 2 doses of Pevnar, administered 2 months apart. The ACIP reports that one published study found no increased risk with this administration schedule; however, the ACIP also indicates that your doctor should be aware that minimal safety data is available regarding administration of the 23-valent vaccine prior to administration of Pevnar.

**Cochlear implant recipients younger than 2 years of age generally should be vaccinated with Pevnar.**

- Since 2001, Pevnar has been routinely administered along with other recommended childhood vaccines at 2, 4, 6 and 12 to 15 months of age. However, due to some shortages, not all children under 2 years old in the US have received Pevnar. Check with your pediatrician to ensure that your child has received all recommended doses of Pevnar.