



January 25, 2010

**Important Information About Concomitant Use of ZOSTAVAX® (Zoster Vaccine Live) and PNEUMOVAX®23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent)**

Dear Health Care Provider,

Merck is writing to make you aware of an update to the Prescribing Information for ZOSTAVAX.

ZOSTAVAX and PNEUMOVAX 23 should not be given concurrently because concomitant use resulted in reduced immunogenicity of ZOSTAVAX.

In a double-blind, controlled clinical trial, 473 adults, 60 years of age or older, were randomized to receive ZOSTAVAX and PNEUMOVAX 23 concomitantly (N=237), or PNEUMOVAX 23 alone followed 4 weeks later by ZOSTAVAX alone (N=236). At four weeks postvaccination, the VZV antibody levels following concomitant use were significantly lower than the VZV antibody levels following nonconcomitant administration (GMTs of 338 vs. 484 gpELISA units/mL, respectively; GMT ratio = 0.70 (95% CI: [0.61, 0.80]). Merck is not recommending revaccination for patients who previously received ZOSTAVAX and PNEUMOVAX 23 concurrently.

If you have questions about this updated information, please contact the Merck National Service Center at 1-877-637-2521. Merck is committed to providing you with current product information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara P. Homeier, MD".

Barbara P. Homeier, MD  
Product Leader, Global Medical Information and Operations