

**AITC CLINICAL CARE MEMO**  
**21 Nov 2013**  
**Vaccination of Asplenic Adults**

Persons with **anatomic asplenia** (surgical removal or congenital absence of the spleen) or **functional asplenia** (as occurs in sickle cell disease) are at increased risk of infection with 3 polysaccharide-encapsulated bacteria:

- *Haemophilus influenzae type b* (Hib)
- *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningococcus)
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcus)

Administer vaccinations  $\geq$  14 days before elective splenectomy, if possible, or post-splenectomy as soon as the patient's condition is stable. For functional asplenia, administer vaccinations as soon as possible.

**Hib:** Those who did not complete a Hib vaccine series earlier in life need one pediatric dose (0.5 ml IM) of a **Hib conjugate vaccine: ACT Hib, PEDVAX Hib, or HIBERIX**. No booster required. (Note: Hib vaccines are FDA-approved for children only; all Hib vaccination of adults is off-label.)

**Meningococcal:** Administer a 2-dose primary series with a **meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra or Menveo, 0.5 ml IM)**, given 8-12 weeks apart, plus a booster dose every 5 years thereafter.

- Menveo can be co-administered with Prevnar13. But since Menactra interferes with the Ab response to Prevnar13, give Menactra  $\geq$  4 weeks after Prevnar13.
- For asplenic adults age 56+, only Menomune, a polysaccharide vaccine, is FDA-approved. But despite being off-label, the more immunogenic Menactra and Menveo are preferred for this group.

**Pneumococcal:** Administer **BOTH** the 13-valent **conjugate vaccine (Prevnar13)** AND the **23-valent polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax23)**.

- Pneumovax23 interferes with the Ab response to Prevnar13. Give Prevnar13 first, and then Pneumovax23 at least 8 weeks later. If Pneumovax23 has been given first, wait at least 1 year to give Prevnar13.
- Revaccinate with Pneumovax23 after 5 years and then again at age 65+, always maintaining a 5-year minimum interval between Pneumovax23 doses. No revaccination needed with Prevnar13.

**Influenza Vaccination:** recommended annually.

<b>2-Visit Vaccination Schedule for Adults Pre- or Post-Splenectomy</b>	
<b>Visit 1:</b> <b>Hib + Menveo #1 + Prevnar 13 + Influenza</b>	<b>Visit 2 (8-12 weeks later):</b> <b>Menveo #2 + Pneumovax23</b>