Important Information about HIV/AIDS and Pneumococcal Disease

Talk to Your Patients about Protecting Themselves from this Dangerous Infection

Saving Lives: Integrating Vaccines for Adults Into Routine Care

- Patients with HIV/AIDS are at an increased risk for complications from pneumococcal disease.
- Pneumococcal disease causes serious illnesses like meningitis, bacteremia, and pneumonia.
- In the US, incidence of invasive pneumococcal disease (meningitis, bacteremia) is 35 times higher in HIV-infected adults than in non-infected adults.
- Bacteremic pneumococcal pneumonia is also more common in HIV-infected individuals.
- Invasive pneumococcal disease is particularly deadly. Pneumococcal bacteremia and meningitis kill 15 to 20 percent and 16 to 37 percent of those infected, respectively.
- Pneumococcal disease survivors may suffer hearing loss, seizures, blindness, or paralysis.
- Pneumococcal vaccination is recommended for all adults with HIV/AIDS. Medicare and most private insurance companies pay for vaccination for patients who need it.

Adults with HIV/AIDS are among those who need pneumococcal vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends both the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) for adults with HIV/AIDS and other risk factors, including:

- Immunocompromising conditions (HIV/AIDS, lymphoma or leukemia, chronic kidney disease) or receiving immunosuppressive treatment (steroids, radiation therapy, etc.)
- Functional or anatomic asplenia
- Cochlear implants or cerebrospinal fluid leaks

The number and timing of doses for these adults varies. For more information, refer to the Pneumococcal Vaccination Guide for Adults or visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/.

There are other adults recommended for pneumococcal vaccination with PPSV23 only, including those:

- Age 65 years and older
- Age 19-64 years of age with any following conditions: asthma, diabetes, lung, heart, or liver disease, or alcoholism
- Cigarette smokers
- Residents of long-term or chronic care facilities

Most of these adults need only one vaccination. Patients with no additional risk factor require a second dose of vaccine at age 65 if it's been five years since their first dose.

For more information and resources to educate patients about pneumococcal disease, visit: Adultvaccination.org/pneumotools.

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