Important Information about LIVER DISEASE 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 chronic liver disease are at an increased risk for pneumococcal disease and its complications.
- Pneumococcal disease causes serious illnesses like meningitis, bacteremia, and pneumonia. Patients with chronic liver disease have an increased risk of death from pneumococcal bacteremia.
- Chronic liver disease is one of the greatest risk factors for pulmonary complications in patients with community-acquired pneumococcal pneumonia.
  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 liver disease. Medicare and most private insurance companies pay for vaccination for patients who need it.

Adults with LIVER DISEASE are among those who need pneumococcal vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) for adults with liver disease and other risk factors:

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

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

CDC also recommends pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) in addition to PPSV23 for the following adults:

- Immunocompromising conditions (HIV/AIDS, lymphoma or leukemia, chronic kidney disease) or receiving immunosuppressive treatment (steroids, radiation therapy, etc.)
- Damaged or no spleen
- Cochlear implants or cerebro-spinal 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/.

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

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