

## Shingles

URL of this page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/shingles.html>

**Also called:** Herpes zoster, Postherpetic neuralgia

Shingles is a disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus - the same virus that causes chickenpox. After you have chickenpox, the virus stays in your body. It may not cause problems for many years. As you get older, the virus may reappear as shingles. Unlike chickenpox, you can't catch shingles from someone who has it.

Early signs of shingles include burning or shooting pain and tingling or itching, usually on one side of the body or face. The pain can be mild to severe. Blisters then form and last from one to 14 days. If shingles appears on your face, it may affect your vision or hearing. The pain of shingles may last for weeks, months or even years after the blisters have healed.

There is no cure for shingles. Early treatment with medicines that fight the virus may help. These medicines may also help prevent lingering pain. A vaccine may prevent shingles or lessen its effects. The vaccine is for people 60 or over.

*NIH: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases*

### Start Here

- Shingles [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/shingles/Pages/Default.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- Shingles [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorials/shingles/htm/index.htm>] **Interactive Tutorial** (Patient Education Institute)  
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/tutorials/shinglesspanish/htm/index.htm>]
- Shingles: Hope through Research [[http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/shingles/detail\\_shingles.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/shingles/detail_shingles.htm)] **NIH** (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)  
Also available in Spanish [<http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastornos/culebrilla.htm>]

### Overviews

- Shingles [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/shingles/shingles.htm>] **NIH** (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) - Short Summary
- Shingles (and Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus) [<http://familydoctor.org/familydoctor/en/diseases-conditions/shingles.printerview.all.html>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
- Shingles (Herpes Zoster) [<http://www.cdc.gov/shingles/about/overview.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

### Latest News

- People with Shingles Show No Higher Cancer Risk [[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_129356.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_129356.html)] (09/17/2012, Reuters Health)

### Diagnosis/Symptoms

- Chickenpox and Shingles Tests [<http://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/chickenpox/test.html>] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)
- Shingles: Questions to Discuss with Your Doctor [<http://www.health.harvard.edu/fhg/doctor/shingles.shtml>] (Harvard Medical School)
- Shingles: Signs and Symptoms [<http://www.aad.org/skin-conditions/dermatology-a-to-z/shingles/signs-symptoms/shingles-signs-and-symptoms>] (American Academy of Dermatology)

## Treatment

- Shingles (Beyond the Basics) [<http://www.uptodate.com/contents/shingles-beyond-the-basics?view=print>] (UpToDate)
- Shingles: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Outcome [<http://www.aad.org/skin-conditions/dermatology-a-to-z/shingles/diagnosis-treatment/shingles-diagnosis-treatment-and-outcome>] (American Academy of Dermatology)

## Prevention/Screening

- Shingles Transmission [<http://www.cdc.gov/shingles/about/transmission.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Shingles Vaccination: What You Need to Know [<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/shingles/vacc-need-know.htm>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Shingles Vaccine: Should I Get It? [<http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/shingles-vaccine/AN01738/METHOD=print>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Shingles: More Common with Age [<http://www.skincarephysicians.com/agingskinnet/shingles.html>] (American Academy of Dermatology)

## Specific Conditions

- Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus [[http://www.merckmanuals.com/home/print/eye\\_disorders/corneal\\_disorders/herpes\\_zoster\\_ophthalmicus.html](http://www.merckmanuals.com/home/print/eye_disorders/corneal_disorders/herpes_zoster_ophthalmicus.html)] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
- Herpes Zoster Oticus [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/ramsay2/ramsay2.htm>] **NIH** (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) - Short Summary
- Postherpetic Neuralgia [<http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/postherpetic-neuralgia/DS00277/DSECTION=all&METHOD=print>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Ramsay Hunt Syndrome [<http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/ramsay-hunt-syndrome/DS00878/DSECTION=all&METHOD=print>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

## Pictures & Photographs

- Photos of Shingles [<http://www.cdc.gov/shingles/about/photos.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Shingles (Zoster) [<http://www.skinsight.com/adult/zosterShingles.htm>] (Logical Images)

## Tutorials

- Shingles [<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/shingles/toc.html>] **NIHSeniorHealth** (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- Shingles [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorials/shingles/htm/index.htm>] (Patient Education Institute)  
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/tutorials/shinglesspanish/htm/index.htm>]

## Videos

- What Can Be Done about Shingles? [[http://nihseniorhealth.gov/shingles/treatmentandprevention/video/shingles4\\_na.html](http://nihseniorhealth.gov/shingles/treatmentandprevention/video/shingles4_na.html)] **NIHSeniorHealth** (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- What Is Shingles? [[http://nihseniorhealth.gov/shingles/aboutshingles/video/shingles1\\_na.html](http://nihseniorhealth.gov/shingles/aboutshingles/video/shingles1_na.html)] **NIHSeniorHealth** (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)

## Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Herpes Zoster [<http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Herpes+Zoster%22>] **NIH** (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Neuralgia, Postherpetic [<http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Neuralgia,+Postherpetic%22>] **NIH** (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles

### References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Taking a shot at shingles. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23033561?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Patient information. Should I get the shingles vaccine? [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22991890?tool=MedlinePlus>]

- Article: Progressive outer retinal necrosis: outcomes in the intravitreal era. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22801826?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Shingles -- see more articles [[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=herpes+zoster\[majr\]+AND+english\[la\]+AND+humans\[mh\]+AND+\(jsubsetk\[text\]+OR+review\[pt\]+OR+guideline\[pt\]+OR+clinical+trial\[pt\]+OR+jsubsetaim\[text\]+OR+jsubsetn\[text\]+OR+patient+education+handout\[pt\]\)+NOT+\(letter\[pt\]+OR+editorial\[pt\]+OR+case+reports\[pt\]\)+AND+%22last+1+Year%22\[edat\]&tool=MedlinePlus](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=herpes+zoster[majr]+AND+english[la]+AND+humans[mh]+AND+(jsubsetk[text]+OR+review[pt]+OR+guideline[pt]+OR+clinical+trial[pt]+OR+jsubsetaim[text]+OR+jsubsetn[text]+OR+patient+education+handout[pt])+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt]+OR+case+reports[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus)]

## Directories

- Find a Dermatologist [<http://www.aad.org/find-a-derm/>] (American Academy of Dermatology)

## Organizations

- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx>] **NIH**
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>] **NIH**  
Also available in Spanish [<http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/>]

## MedlinePlus Magazine

- "My Experience with Shingles" [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/magazine/issues/winter10/articles/winter10pg18.html>] **NIH**
- Protecting Yourself from Shingles [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/magazine/issues/winter10/articles/winter10pg16-17.html>] **NIH**

## Children

- Shingles (For Parents) [[http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/bacterial\\_viral/shingles.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/bacterial_viral/shingles.html)] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also available in Spanish [[http://kidshealth.org/parent/en\\_espanol/infecciones/shingles\\_esp.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/infecciones/shingles_esp.html)]

## Teenagers

- Shingles (For Teens) [[http://kidshealth.org/teen/infections/skin\\_rashes/shingles.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/infections/skin_rashes/shingles.html)] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also available in Spanish [[http://kidshealth.org/teen/en\\_espanol/infecciones/shingles\\_esp.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/infecciones/shingles_esp.html)]

## Seniors

- Protect Yourself against Shingles: Get Vaccinated [<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Shingles/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/especialesCDC/culebrilla/>]
- Shingles [<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/shingles/toc.html>] **NIHSeniorHealth** (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- Shingles [<http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/shingles>] **NIH** (National Institute on Aging)

## Patient Handouts

- Post-herpetic neuralgia - aftercare [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000555.htm>]  
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000555.htm>]
- Postherpetic neuralgia [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007423.htm>]  
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/007423.htm>]
- Ramsay Hunt syndrome [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001647.htm>]  
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001647.htm>]
- Shingles [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000858.htm>]  
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000858.htm>]
- Shingles - aftercare [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000560.htm>]  
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000560.htm>]
- Shingles Vaccine: What You Need to Know [<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-shingles.pdf>]  
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Post-herpetic neuralgia - aftercare [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000555.htm>]
- Postherpetic neuralgia [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007423.htm>]
- Ramsay Hunt syndrome [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001647.htm>]
- Shingles [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000858.htm>]
- Shingles - aftercare [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000560.htm>]

**You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:**

- Chickenpox [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/chickenpox.html>]
- Brain and Nerves [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/brainandnerves.html>]
- Infections [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/infections.html>]
- Seniors [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/seniors.html>]
- Skin, Hair and Nails [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/skinhairandnails.html>]

The primary NIH organization for research on *Shingles* is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>]

Shingles - Multiple Languages [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/languages/shingles.html>]

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