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)
- Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastornos/culebrilla.htm]

Overviews

- Shingles (Herpes Zoster) [http://www.cdc.gov/shingles/about/overview.html] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Latest News


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)
Treatment

- Shingles (Beyond the Basics) [http://www.uptodate.com/contents/shingles-beyond-the-basics?view=print] (UpToDate)

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.html] (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)

Specific Conditions

- Postherpetic Neuralgia [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/postherpetic-neuralgia/DS00277/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)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/tutorials/shinglesspanish/htm/index.htm]

Videos


Clinical Trials

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

Journal Articles

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


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


Children

- Shingles (For Parents) [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]

Teenagers

- Shingles (For Teens) [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]

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/espanol/esp_cdc/shingles/]
- Shingles [http://nihseniorhealth.gov/shingles/toc.html] NIH SeniorHealth (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)

Patient Handouts


You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:
You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- 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]

Date last updated: 10 October 2012
Topic last reviewed: 01 October 2012