



Immunizations and Cochlear Implants: Frequently Asked Questions

What kinds of shots (immunizations) should my child have before getting a cochlear implant?

To be considered for cochlear implantation, children must have evidence of previous vaccinations or parental intent to follow-through with CDC-recommended vaccinations:

Immunization Checklist	Recommended
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) [6-month dose not needed for PedvaxHIB]	2 months
	4 months
	6 months
	12-15 months
	Catch Up
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV 13)	2 months
	4 months
	6 months
	12-15 months
	Catch Up
Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23)	≥ 2 years of age (please refer to the end note for older children who have not received PCV 13)
Influenza	Current flu season

What if my child has not had any of these shots?

Your child must be up-to-date with the above vaccinations to be scheduled for cochlear implant surgery. Contact your child's doctor or local health department to set up an appointment to complete these vaccinations.

Why are these shots important?

Children who have a cochlear implant have a higher chance to get a type of meningitis (infection around the brain). These shots help your child's body fight off the types of bacteria that can cause this infection.

The Centers for Disease Control has information about immunizations (shots) for people who have Cochlear Implants.

Pneumococcal Vaccination Recommendations for Children with Cochlear Implant(s):

Ages 2-5

- Give 2 doses of PCV13 if they are unvaccinated or received an incomplete PCV13 series with <3 doses. Give the second dose at least 8 weeks after the first.
- Give 1 dose of PCV13 if they received 3 doses of PCV13 but none were given after 12 months of age.
- Give 1 dose of PPSV23 at least 8 weeks after the PCV13 series is complete.

Ages 6-18

- Give 1 dose of PCV13 if they have not received any doses of PCV13. Administer PCV13 before giving any recommended doses of PPSV23.
- Give 1 dose of PPSV23 (if not already given earlier in childhood) at least 8 weeks after PCV13.

Ages 19-20

Note for older children who have not received PCV13:

- Give 1 dose of PCV13 and 1 dose of PPSV23. Administer PCV13 first, then give the PPSV23 dose at least 8 weeks later.

Where can I get more information?

The CDS's website is:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpdvac/mening/cochlear/dis-cochlear-gen.htm>.