

## **PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION**

### **READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE**

#### **VAXNEUVANCE®**

**(Pneumococcal 15-valent Conjugate Vaccine [CRM<sub>197</sub> Protein], adsorbed)**

Read this carefully before you are given **VAXNEUVANCE®**. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this vaccine. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about **VAXNEUVANCE®**.

#### **What is VAXNEUVANCE® used for?**

- **VAXNEUVANCE®** is a vaccine for adults 18 years of age and older to help protect against invasive disease caused by 15 types of bacteria called pneumococcus. Invasive disease includes:
  - an infection in the blood.
  - an infection of the lungs (pneumonia) that comes with an infection in the blood.
  - an infection of the coverings of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis).

These illnesses are more likely to occur in older people and those with certain diseases or behaviors such as cigarette smoking.

**VAXNEUVANCE®** will not give you disease caused by pneumococcus.

**VAXNEUVANCE®** may not protect against diseases caused by types of pneumococcus that are not covered by the vaccine.

#### **How does VAXNEUVANCE® work?**

The vaccine works by helping your body to make its own antibodies which can protect you against pneumococcal disease caused by 15 types of pneumococcus.

#### **What are the ingredients in VAXNEUVANCE®?**

Medicinal ingredients: Bacterial sugars from 15 types of pneumococcus each linked to a protein (CRM<sub>197</sub>) as the active ingredient. The sugars from these bacteria and the protein are not alive and do not cause disease.

Non-medicinal ingredients: Aluminum (aluminum phosphate is included to help the vaccine work better), L-histidine, polysorbate 20, sodium chloride and water. **VAXNEUVANCE®** does not contain any preservatives.

#### **VAXNEUVANCE® comes in the following dosage form:**

- 0.5 mL prefilled syringes

#### **Do not use VAXNEUVANCE® if:**

- You are allergic to any of the ingredients in **VAXNEUVANCE®** or to any vaccine containing diphtheria toxoid.

**To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you get VAXNEUVANCE®. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have or have had, including if you:**

- have any allergies.
- have a fever. Your healthcare professional will tell you if you should receive VAXNEUVANCE®.
- have a weak immune system (which means your body has a hard time fighting off infections).
- take medicines or treatments that might weaken your immune system (like immunosuppressants or steroids).
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. Your healthcare professional will tell you if you should receive VAXNEUVANCE®.
- are breast-feeding or intend to breast-feed. Your healthcare professional will tell you if you should receive VAXNEUVANCE®.

**Other warnings you should know about:**

As with other vaccines, VAXNEUVANCE® may not fully protect all those who get it.

**Use of VAXNEUVANCE® with other vaccines and medicines**

**Tell your healthcare professional if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other vaccines or any medicines (for example, immunosuppressants or steroids which may make your immune system weak), including vitamins, minerals, natural supplements, alternative medicines or drugs that you can buy over the counter.**

VAXNEUVANCE® can be given at the same time as the flu (inactivated influenza) vaccine

**How is VAXNEUVANCE® given:**

**Usual dose:**

**Adult:**

VAXNEUVANCE® is a shot that is usually given into the muscle (preferably in your upper arm). You will receive one dose.

**Children:**

It has not yet been established whether VAXNEUVANCE® can be used in children and adolescents younger than 18 years of age.

**Overdose:**

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have received too much VAXNEUVANCE®, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

**Missed Dose:**

VAXNEUVANCE® is given as a single dose.

**What are possible side effects from using VAXNEUVANCE®?**

As with any vaccine, this vaccine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

The most common side effects seen with VAXNEUVANCE® are:

- Pain, swelling or redness where you got the shot
- Feeling tired
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Joint pain

These side effects are generally mild and last a short time.

Tell your healthcare professional about these side effects or any other unusual symptoms that develop after you receive this vaccine. Get medical care right away if you have symptoms of an allergic reaction, which may include:

- Wheezing or trouble breathing
- Swelling of the face, lips or tongue
- Hives
- Rash

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking VAXNEUVANCE®. There may be side effects that are not listed here. Ask your healthcare professional for more information.

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

#### **Reporting Suspected Side Effects for Vaccines**

**For the general public:** Should you experience a side effect following immunization, please report it to your healthcare professional.

Should you require information related to the management of the side effect, please contact your healthcare professional. The Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada and Merck Canada Inc. cannot provide medical advice.

**For healthcare professionals:** If a patient experiences a side effect following immunization, please complete the Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Form appropriate for your province/territory (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/aefi-essi-form-eng.php>) and send it to your local Health Unit.

#### **Storage:**

Store refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C. Do not freeze. Protect from light.

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

#### **If you want more information about VAXNEUVANCE®:**

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>; the Merck Canada website [www.merck.ca](http://www.merck.ca), or by calling 1-800-567-2594.

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