



From Knowledge to Action: Advances in Herpes Zoster Vaccine and Vaccination

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

31 March 2025

Message from the Guest Editors

Herpes zoster, also known as shingles, is a condition caused by the reactivation of the varicella zoster virus. Public knowledge about shingles and its vaccination is often limited, leading to misconceptions and underestimation of the disease's severity. Vaccine uptake is uneven, with disparities based on socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, and geography due to limited access, financial barriers, and inconsistent healthcare recommendations. Two main vaccines are available: Shingrix (recombinant subunit) and Zostavax (live attenuated). The former is preferred for immunocompromised individuals, because it is a non-live vaccine, reducing the risks associated with live vaccines like Zostavax. Effective vaccine campaigns, vital for increasing herpes zoster vaccination rates, are starting globally. Strategies should focus on raising awareness about the disease and the vaccination benefits and addressing common misconceptions. Leveraging media platforms and engaging healthcare providers in proactive outreach are required to increase vaccination coverage.





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