

***How long (duration) does the shingles vaccine work for to prevent shingles (herpes zoster)?***

**Case:** *A 75-year-old patient received the Zostavax vaccine nine years ago and wants to know whether it still provides effective protection against shingles, or if they should now receive the Shingrix vaccine as a booster.*

**Key points from the studies below:**

1. Live Zoster Vaccine (Zostavax) offers strong short-term protection against getting Shingles/Zoster, with the efficacy decreasing substantially beyond 5-8 years.
2. Recombinant Zoster Vaccine (Shingrix) maintains robust protection against getting Shingles/Zoster for at least 7-8 years.
  1. No studies published yet on Shingrix protection to prevent Shingles beyond 7-8 years.

**1. Klein et al. (2023) Study:**

This study at Kaiser Permanente assessed **live zoster vaccine (Zostavax)** effectiveness over 10+ years in adults aged 50+ using electronic health records.

Link: <https://www.bmj.com/content/383/bmj-2023-076321>.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Treatment Details**

- Vaccinated: 642,434 received one dose of live zoster vaccine.
- Unvaccinated: Large comparator cohort from same population (exact N not specified).

## **Follow-Up and HZ Outcomes**

Shingles (herpes zoster) vaccine efficacy decreased from 67% (year 1) to 15% (years 10-12).

## **2. Morrison et al. (2015) Study:**

This long-term study followed **live zoster vaccine (Zostavax)** recipients, aged >68 years old, for up to 11 years.

Link: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4357816/>.

## **Treatment Details**

- Vaccinated: 6,867 received live zoster vaccine (Zostavax).
- Unvaccinated: Modeled historical placebo (exact N not specified).

## **Follow-Up and HZ Outcomes**

Vaccine Efficacy for preventing Shingles (Zoster) decreased from 46% in year 7 to 14% in year 10.

## **3. Boutry et al. (2021) Study:**

This study assessed recombinant zoster vaccine (**RZV, Shingrix**) long-term efficacy in adults ≥50 years.

Link: <https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/74/8/1459/6324611>.<sup>[4]</sup>

## **Treatment Details**

- Vaccinated: 7,277 received two doses of adjuvanted recombinant zoster vaccine.

- Unvaccinated: Historical placebo (exact N not specified).

### **Follow-Up and HZ Outcomes**

Vaccine Efficacy for preventing Shingles (Zoster) was >84% after 8 years.