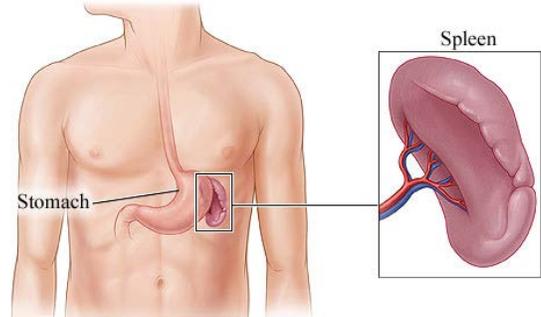


POSTSPLENECTOMY PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

Patient Name: _____

The following are guidelines. These guidelines do change; please check with your physician to make sure these recommendations are up to date.

Splenectomy (splee-nek-tuh-mee) is the name of the operation that was done to remove your spleen. The spleen is a fist-sized organ located in the upper left side of your abdomen (belly). The spleen helps you fight infections, get rid of old or damaged red blood cells, and store blood for your body. Because of either disease or damage to your spleen, it had to be removed. You can live without a spleen, but you may be at a higher risk for certain types of blood infection. To help you fight these infections in the future, you need the following immunizations (shots).



#	Vaccine Name	Dose	Route	Revaccinate every	Date Received
1	Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine	0.5mL	IM*	None needed	/ /
2	Pneumococcal vaccine, polyvalent (Pneumovax 23)	0.5mL	SC*	Every 6 years	/ /
3	Neisseria meningitides conjugate vaccine (Menactra)	0.5mL	SC*	None needed	/ /

*Administered in the deltoid or lateral thigh region

It is important that you go and see a doctor IMMEDIATELY if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Worsening and persistent abdominal pain
- Skin rash, swelling, redness, or signs of infection

These may be signs that you may have an infection. Without your spleen, a small or minor infection may become very serious and your doctor needs to examine you and possibly start antibiotics to help your body fight the infection.

The effect of the vaccines in preventing infection varies from patient to patient and depends on the strength of your immune system when the vaccines were given. You will need to be re-immunized (have the shots again) approximately every 5 years for the rest of your life. You should make sure that your doctor has a copy of this information sheet so that they can help remind you when it is time to be re-immunized.

If you or your doctor has any questions about the above information, you should contact your surgeon.