

# Experimental zoster vaccine effective in adults aged 70+

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(HealthDay)—An experimental vaccine against herpes zoster may offer

lasting protection for most older adults who receive it, according to a study published in the Sept. 15 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The new trial involved 13,900 adults age 70 and older. Participants were randomly assigned to receive either two doses of the herpes zoster subunit vaccine (HZ/su) containing recombinant varicella-zoster virus glycoprotein E and the AS01<sub>B</sub> adjuvant system, or two doses of a placebo.

The researchers found that the experimental vaccine protected 89.8 percent of adults age 70 and up. During a mean follow-up of 3.7 years, only 23 vaccine recipients developed herpes zoster, compared to 223 placebo recipients. There were short-lived side effects, such as pain at the injection site, fatigue, or muscle pain; however, serious [adverse events](#) occurred with similar frequencies in the two study groups.

"In our trial, HZ/su was found to reduce the risks of [herpes zoster](#) and postherpetic neuralgia among adults 70 years of age or older," the authors write.

The study was funded by GlaxoSmithKline, the developer of HZ/su.

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