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A Deeper Look into Herpes Zoster
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Introduction

In the United States, it is estimated that 1 in 3 people will develop shingles, the result of reactivating varicella-zoster virus (VZV) from latency (Cohen et al., 2013). Risk factors for developing herpes zoster are numerous and include age, diabetes, malignancies, corticosteroid use, immunosuppression, and genetics (Cohen et al., 2013). The available vaccine for zoster, Zostavax, is approved in the United States and is considered the standard of care because of its high effectiveness (CDC, 2016). Zoster has been associated with side effects including erythema at the injection site (Simmelbrock et al., 2011), fever, and headache (Cohen et al., 2013). The purpose of this paper is to introduce the pathophysiology related to herpes zoster, signs and symptoms, and nursing implications related to the prevention and treatment of this disease.