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*Specializing in Diseases  
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## **Arizona Hearing & Balance Center**

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### **IMPORTANT NOTE FOR POTENTIAL AND CURRENT COCHLEAR IMPLANT RECIPIENTS**

Individuals with cochlear implants are at an increased risk of contracting bacterial meningitis, a life-threatening infection of the brain and the fluid that surrounds it. Although the risk is small, it is important for cochlear implant recipients to be vaccinated against the bacteria that can cause bacterial meningitis. *Streptococcus pneumonia* (“pneumococcus”) and *Haemophilus influenza* type b (“Hib”) are two types of bacteria responsible for the majority of bacterial meningitis post-cochlear implantation.

Vaccines against these two types of bacteria are widely available from your pediatrician or primary care physician.

Pneumococcal vaccines: **Prennar** for children vaccinated before age 2 and **Pneumovax** for children vaccinated after age 2.

Hib Vaccine: protects against *Haemophilus influenza* type b

**NOTE:** Prennar and Hib are part of the routine infant immunization schedule in the U.S., thus all children should receive these vaccines in infancy. Prior to cochlear implant surgery you **must** verify that your child has received all doses of the Prennar series and, if not, catch up. If a patient is implanted after age 2, the Hib vaccine is not required.

Guidelines for vaccinations are as follows:

**For Children– Please consult with your pediatrician regarding the necessary immunizations**

- “Prennar 13”
- For more information, please see:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5909a2.htm>

**All adults MUST get:**

- 23-Valent Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine (PPV)
  - “Pneumovax” and “Pnu-Immune”

OR

- 13-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV-13)
  - “Prennar 13”

**We will not accept any other meningococcal vaccinations!**

**Arizona Hearing and Balance Center requires that all patients under age 18 receive the appropriate vaccinations prior to cochlear implant surgery. Proof of appropriate vaccinations is required to be submitted to our office at least one week prior to the surgery date or surgery will be postponed. Vaccinations are optional but strongly recommended for patients over age 18.**