To all Cochlear implant patients (current & future):

Although extremely rare, meningitis caused by *Streptococcus pneumonia* has been reported in patients with cochlear implants. To minimize this risk:

Make sure your pneumococcal meningitis vaccinations are up to date.

New CDC guidelines (4/2010) are as follows:

- For children under 2 years of age: Along with the usual vaccinations for Measles, Mumps, and Rubella, vaccination for *Haemophilus influenza* (H. flu), and *Streptococcal pneumonia* (*Prevnar* shots x 3 or 4, depending on your Pediatrician’s choice) should be given. After the age of 2 years, vaccination for *Streptococcus pneumonia* should be repeated in the form of *Pneumovax*.

- For children between the ages of 2 and 10 years: *Pneumovax* vaccination is needed as soon as possible but at least 2 weeks before surgery.
  - Children who have cochlear implants or are candidates for cochlear implants who have not received any previous doses of PCV7, should receive PCV13 as it is recommended routinely for all infants and children.
  - Older children with cochlear implants (between their 2nd and 6th birthdays) should receive 2 doses of PCV13, if they have not received any doses of PCV7 or PCV13 previously. If they have already completed the 4-dose PCV7 series, they should receive one dose of PCV13 through age 71 months.
  - In addition, children 6 through 18 years of age with cochlear implants may receive a single dose of PCV13, regardless of whether they have previously received PCV7 or the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) (Pneumovax®).

For adults: *Pneumovax* vaccination is needed as soon as possible. The need for a subsequent (booster) shot at 65 years of age with *Pneumovax* is currently under study. You may wish to discuss the booster requirement with your physician.

For more information on these guidelines you may visit the CDC website at: