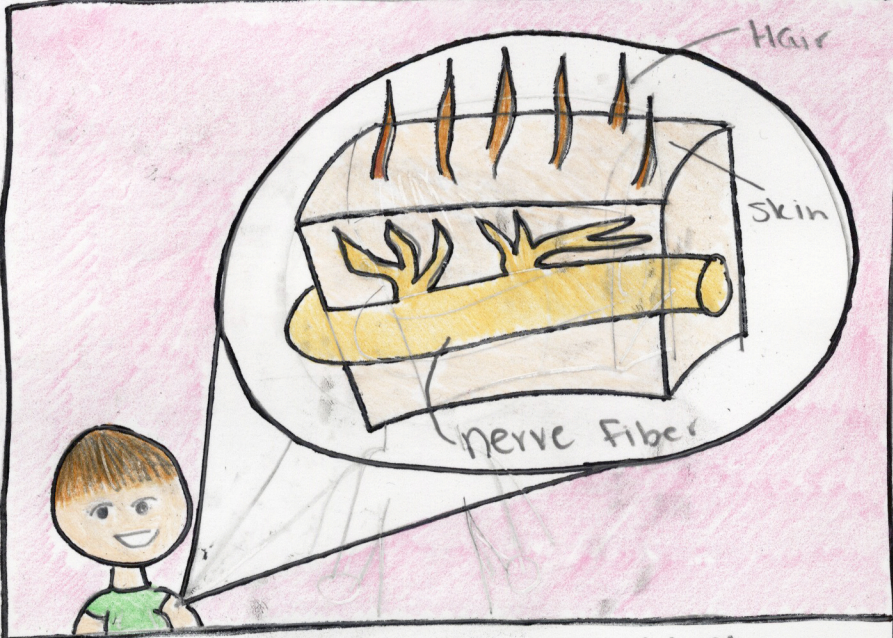
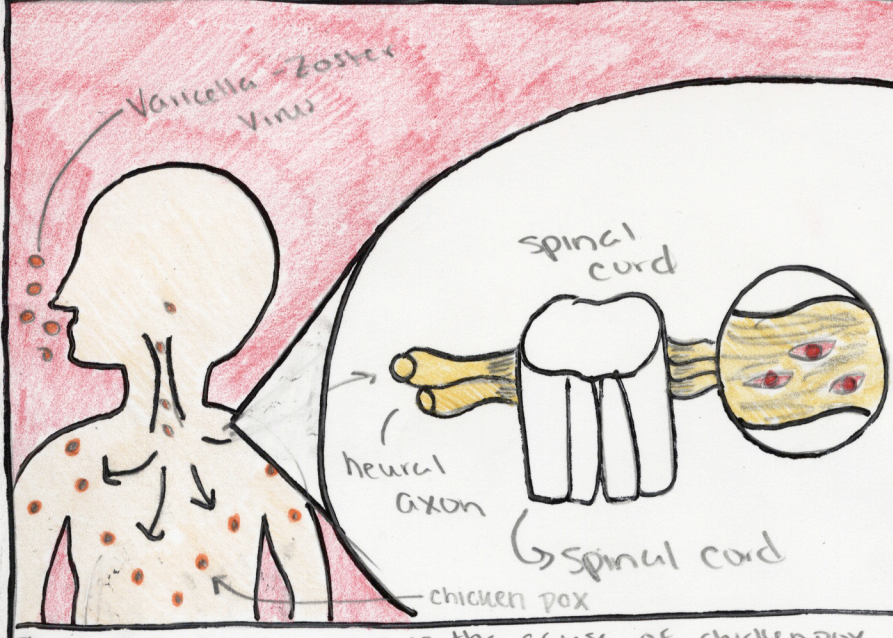


SHINGLES

PRATIBHA BHALLA
ZAHRA VASI
SHIVANG BHASKAR
SOPHIE PRIBUS



The most common way in which shingles is contracted is through first contracting chicken pox, a viral infection. Children are first healthy and have a well functioning nervous system, with inputs of environmental factors.

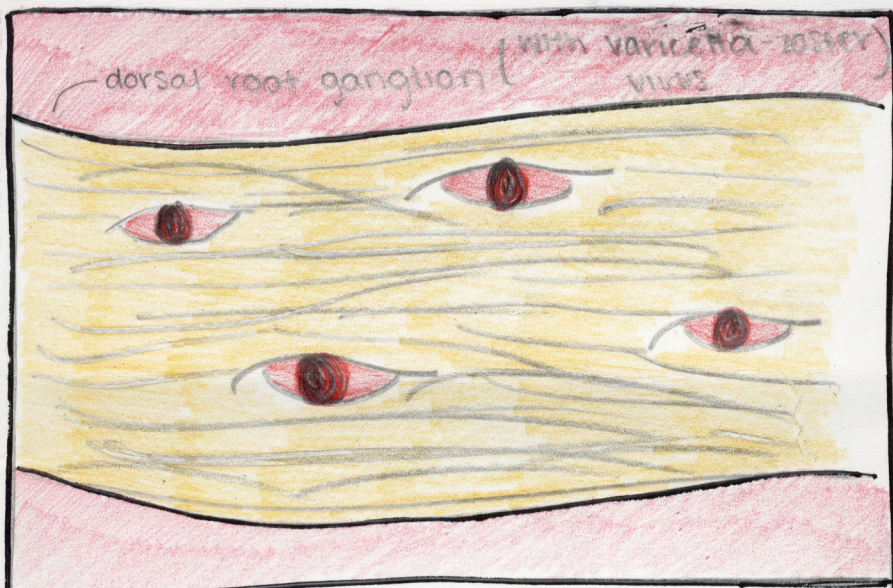


The varicella-zoster virus is the cause of chicken pox and shingles. It is the input, as most of the nervous system has environmental factors as inputs. The VZV will spread throughout the body and cause rashes and bumps on the skin. The itchy blister rash appears after 10 to 21 days.

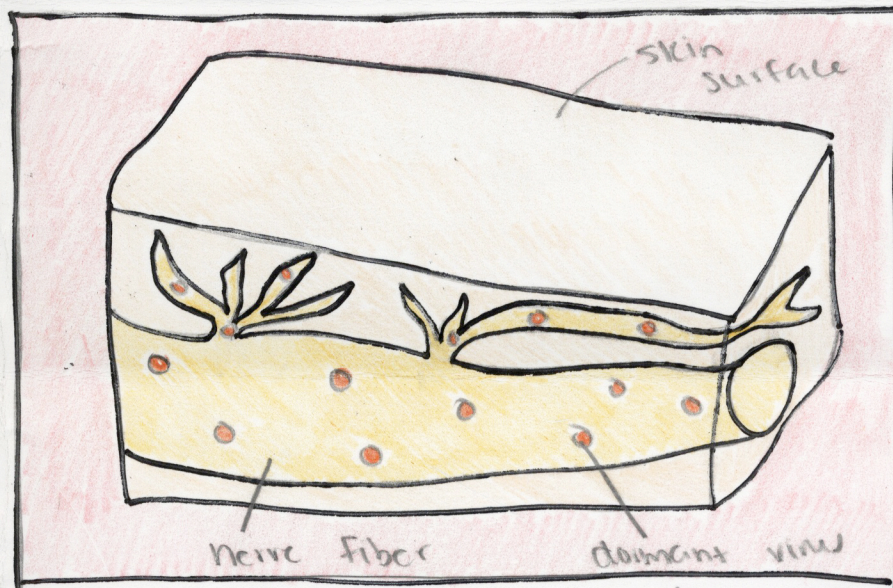


After about 5 to 10 days since the symptoms first appear, individuals begin to recover from the infection. However, the varicella-zoster infection remains in the nerve fibers, but are dormant and don't harm the individual.

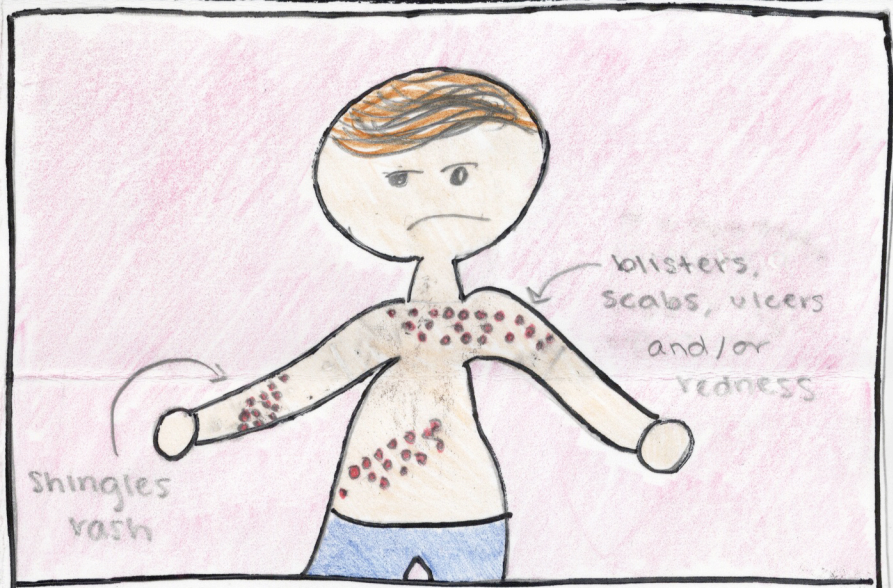
MANY YEARS LATER...



As people grow older, they develop a lowered immunity towards viruses, which allow the varicella-zoster virus to affect people years after they contract chicken pox in a form called shingles.



As the VZV reactivates, it spreads down long nerve fibers (axons) that extend from the sensory cell bodies to the skin. As the virus multiplies, the bumps and lesions begin to appear.



The nervous system outputs a response from the body and for shingles, the response to the virus is red blisters that strip across the body. There is a rash that is painful and a burning, itching sensation. They are painful and can crust over.



Shingles is more severe than chickenpox and can last from 3 to 5 weeks. Once an individual has recovered, they will most likely not get it again.

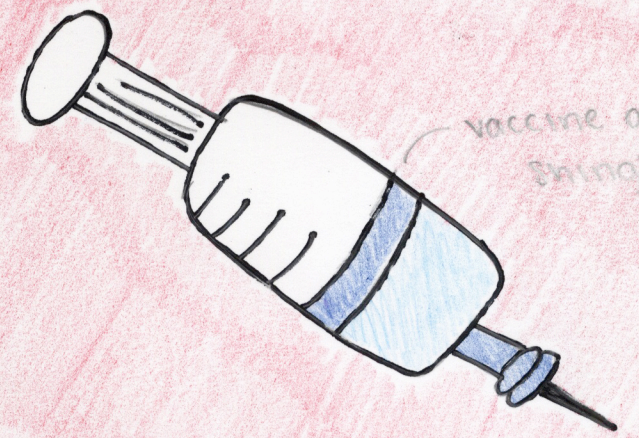


Transmission of shingles happens mainly through the fluid of the blisters. Until the blisters form and fluid is produced, the individual is not contagious. Once the blisters crust over, the individual is not contagious anymore. The virus can also be airborne.



antiviral medication

Although there is no cure against shingles, antiviral medication is available to diminish the length and severity of the shingles.



Furthermore, there are vaccines available against chicken pox and another one against shingles to not allow the virus actually harm the body and the immune system takes care of it.