



MEDICAL THERAPIES AND PHARMACOLOGY

A RE-AUDIT OF INFLUENZA VACCINATION IN PATIENTS ON IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE THERAPY FOR DERMATOLOGICAL DISEASES

Pushplata Srivastava⁽¹⁾ - Manjunatha Kalavala⁽¹⁾

University Hospital Of Wales, Dermatology, Cardiff, United Kingdom⁽¹⁾

Background: Vaccination in immunocompromised patients is vital, as impaired host defenses predispose them to vaccine-preventable infections. Influenza results in significant morbidity and mortality around the world. Hence the Public Health departments and British specialty societies recommend influenza vaccination in at-risk groups. An audit was undertaken in 2016, looking at vaccination in patients attending dermatology clinics to assess adherence to the national guidelines for influenza vaccination in immunosuppressed patients. Based on the audit recommendations, a re-audit was done in early 2019, thereby raising awareness amongst dermatologists, family physicians and patients to improve vaccination uptake.

Objectives: To identify if patients at-risk due to medication are being vaccinated according to the guidelines, and to compare the data with the national targets and previous dermatology audit results in 2016.

Materials and Methods: Data was prospectively collected from November 2018 till February 2019 from patients attending Dermatology clinics using the same proforma as used in 2016. The findings were compared to the standards set in the national guidelines and the results from the previous audit.

Results: A total of 55 patients, above the age of 18 years and on immunosuppressive medications for various dermatological diseases, were recruited. 84% of patients were aware of the need for vaccination compared to 78% in 2016. 76% had influenza vaccination as compared to 59% in 2016.

Conclusions: Overall, the dermatology patients had a vaccination rate surpassing the national annual target (75%) after the initial audit. There was also a higher awareness rate about vaccination in professionals and immunocompromised patients in view of the previous audit awareness. We advise to routinely ask patients about their vaccination in clinic and recommend vaccination to at-risk patients, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality associated with influenza. Presenting this data internationally will raise further awareness and we hope that other hospitals would also follow suit.

