

Delay in the integration of CDC's ACIP recommendations for pneumococcal vaccination in adults 65+ into clinical practice guidelines

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POSTER #1688

ABSTRACT

Background: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) makes recommendations on pneumococcal vaccination in the adult population. Many medical societies update their pneumococcal vaccination guidelines based on a review of these recommendations. We gathered information on the adult vaccination policies of US medical societies and compared them to current ACIP recommendations.

Methods: Pneumococcal vaccines guidelines of 38 recommending bodies were compared to current ACIP pneumococcal vaccination recommendations. A literature review was performed to supplement the information on the medical societies.

Results: A large proportion (>70%) of selected medical societies had not updated their guidelines to reflect current ACIP pneumococcal recommendations for 65+ at the time of this review, even after nearly 3 years since ACIP made the recommendation.

Conclusion: There is a significant delay in the review and incorporation of the CDC-ACIP pneumococcal vaccine recommendations into clinical guidelines of US medical societies.

BACKGROUND

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend pneumococcal vaccination in the adult population (1)
- ACIP issued updated recommendations for use of pneumococcal vaccination in adults 65 years of age and older in September of 2014 (2)
- Many medical societies update their vaccination guidelines based on a review of ACIP recommendations
- While these organizations typically take an evidence-based approach to making recommendations for their patients (3), alignment to vaccination standards often lags
- Recommendations by medical societies often take the form of published clinical practice guidelines

• We gathered information on the adult vaccination policies of US medical societies and compared them to current ACIP recommendations

METHODS

- We conducted internet searches for publicly available information from medical societies and health-care organization websites in January-March 2017
- Search terms included: pneumonia, pneumococcal, immunization, vaccine, vaccination, and prevention
- Medical societies and health organizations identified through this search were selected by either having existing adult pneumococcal guidelines, or representing adult patient populations
- The inclusion criteria for clinical practice guidelines at each organization included that they were written in English, published in the past 15 years, and focused on adult patients in the United States

METHODS (CONT.)

- Guidelines not meeting these criteria were excluded, as were guidelines focused on children and adolescents
- For each organization, we identified publicly available practice guidelines (available through March 2017), non-guideline information, and other recommendations for prevention of pneumococcal disease in adults that were issued by the selected medical societies
- For each organization, we assessed the extent to which recommendations aligned with current ACIP pneumococcal vaccination recommendations for adults 65+

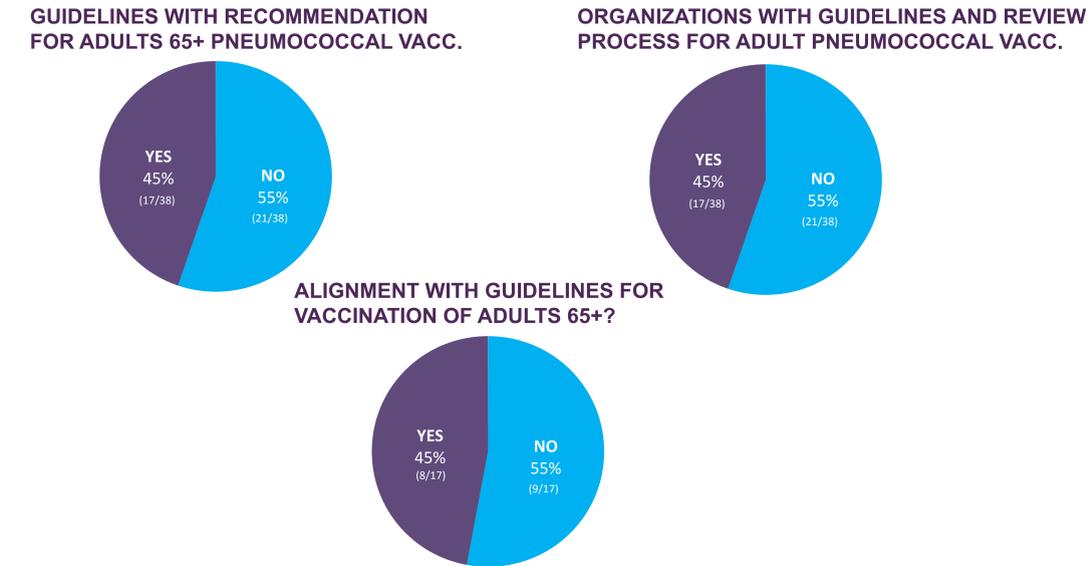
RESULTS

- Only 21% (8) of the selected 38 medical societies had updated pneumococcal vaccine guidelines for adults that align to the current ACIP pneumococcal recommendations for 65+ at the time of this review, even after nearly 3 years since ACIP made the recommendation
- Of the 38 societies reviewed, 21 (55%) do not have publicly available clinical practice guidelines that address pneumococcal vaccines
- Seventeen organizations (45%) had guidelines for adult pneumococcal vaccines
- From these 17 organizations, 8 (47%) of the organizations that have guidelines had clinical practice guidelines for their adult patients that aligned to ACIP recommendations for pneumococcal vaccines for 65+ (Figure 1)

TABLE 1. IDENTIFIED MEDICAL SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Medical Societies / Health Organizations
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI)
American Academy of Audiology (AAA)
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
American Academy of Neurology (AAN)
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF)
American Association for Respiratory Care (AACRC)
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)
American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE)
American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN)
American Cancer Society (ACS)
American College of Cardiology (ACC)/ American Heart Association (AHA)
American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP)
American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)
American College of Physicians (ACP)
American College of Rheumatology (ACR)
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
American Diabetes Association (ADA)
American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)
American Geriatrics Society (AGS)
American Lung Association (ALA)
American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
American Society of Hematology (ASH)
American Society of Nephrology (ASN)
American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS)
American Society of Transplantation (AST)
American Thoracic Society (ATS)
Gerontological Society of America (GSA)
Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)
Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA)
Institute of Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI)
National Kidney Foundation (NKF)
NY State Department of Health (NYSDH)
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA)
Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM)
Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS)
The American Association of Clinical Endocrinology (AACE)
The Endocrine Society
Total Organizations: 38

FIGURE 1. CURRENT GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADULTS 65+



CONCLUSIONS

- The incorporation of new immunization CDC-ACIP recommendations into routine clinical practice is often a challenging and lengthy process to disseminate these changes throughout the health care system (4,5)
- The results presented here indicate that a majority of organizations' clinical practice guidelines do not currently include pneumococcal immunizations for adult patients 65+, and if they do, only a small percentage of them are as of this date aligned with the ACIP guidelines for pneumococcal vaccination for 65+ adults
- This time-sensitive analysis has as a major limitation of not being able to track changes in recommendations over time, and lacks information on the rate at which organizations work to align to ACIP recommendations
- In addition there is a subjective aspect of the analysis based on what can be easily accessed publicly in the internet. Finally, despite attempts to have a comprehensive review, it is likely that relevant organizations may have been accidentally not included in the analysis (6)

CONCLUSIONS

There is a significant delay in the review and incorporation of the CDC-ACIP pneumococcal vaccine recommendations into clinical practice guidelines of US medical societies. The majority of the societies reviewed do not have recommendations for pneumococcal vaccination of adult patients 65+. A small percentage (20%) of the medical societies reviewed have recommendations that align with CDC-ACIP for adults 65+.

DISCLOSURES

All authors are employees of Pfizer, Inc. This work was supported by Pfizer, Inc. Avalere Health (Washington D.C.) was hired by Pfizer, Inc. to assist with the gathering of data for this work.