

Vaccination uptake in Dermatology patients over the age of 65 years on Biologic Treatment.

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Introduction

Biologic and immunosuppressive therapies play important roles in the management of a wide variety of dermatologic diseases. However, immunotherapies can negatively affect normal immune functioning, placing these patients at risk of infection¹. The strength of the immune system also declines with increasing age. Therefore, in accordance with the British Association of Dermatology guidelines (August 2021), patients on biologic therapies can and should have their COVID-19, influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations^{2,4}.

Objectives

Thus, the objectives of this audit was to assess if Dermatology patients over the age of sixty-five years, on biologics therapies, had their COVID-19, pneumococcal and influenza vaccine.

Methods

We conducted a retrospective audit of all patients over the age of 65 years on biological therapies in the dermatology clinic between March 2021 and March 2022. Data on patients COVID-19, influenza and pneumococcal vaccination status were obtained from the departmental dermatology database (Filemaker Pro®) and patients' medical records.

Results

Eighteen patients over the age of 65 years, were on biological therapies in the Dermatology Department.

Gender

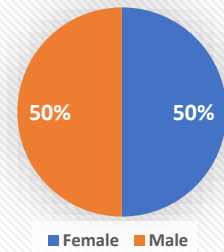


Figure 1: Gender distribution.

Age

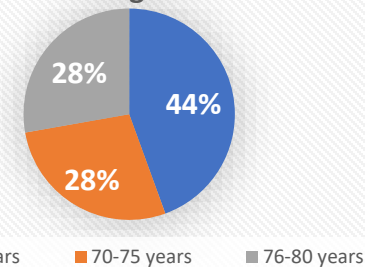


Figure 2: Age Distribution.

One hundred percent of patients had received all three of their COVID-19 vaccines. 94% (n=17) of patients had received their influenza vaccine in 2021. 66% (n=12) of patients had received their pneumococcal vaccination in the last 5 years.

COVID-19 Vaccine



Figure 3: COVID-19 Vaccine uptake.

Influenza Vaccine

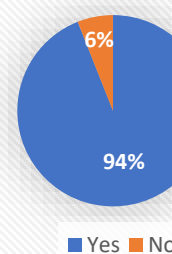


Figure 4: Influenza vaccine uptake.

Pneumococcal Vaccine

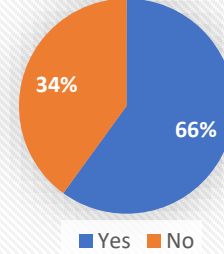


Figure 5: Pneumococcal Vaccine uptake.

Discussion

Eighteen patients over the age of 65 years, were on biological therapies in the Dermatology Department, between March 2021 and March 2022. The mean age was 71 years (\pm sd 5.2). The gender distribution was equal: 50% (n=9) male, 50% (n=9) female. With regard to biological therapies, 17% of patients were treated with adalimumab, 16% were receiving Etanercept, 28% were receiving secukinumab, 11% were receiving ixekizumab and 11% were receiving guselkumab. 100% of patient received their COVID-19 vaccine, 94% received their influenza vaccine and 66% received their Pneumococcal vaccine.

Conclusion

This audit confirms dermatology patients over the age of sixty-five years, demonstrate excellent compliance receiving their covid-19 vaccinations, as recommended by the BAD^{2,4}. However, only 66% of patients had received their pneumococcal vaccination, in contrast with 94% who had received their influenza vaccine, illustrating the need for educational intervention in this high-risk patient group. We plan to reaudit next year to assess compliance with vaccinations following patient education in order to complete the audit cycle.

References

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