

Investigating compliance of haematology patients with recommended pneumococcal and influenza vaccines

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Introduction

National guidance in the Green Book of Immunisation¹ states that those who are immunosuppressed fall in a clinical risk group who should be offered an annual influenza vaccine. In addition to this, they should be offered a pneumococcal vaccine which may need to be repeated every 5 years.

Aims

Our aim was to investigate a cohort of haematology patients at Maidstone hospital to see whether they were compliant with national guidance. If they weren't, we aimed to find out why and how we could improve the compliance.

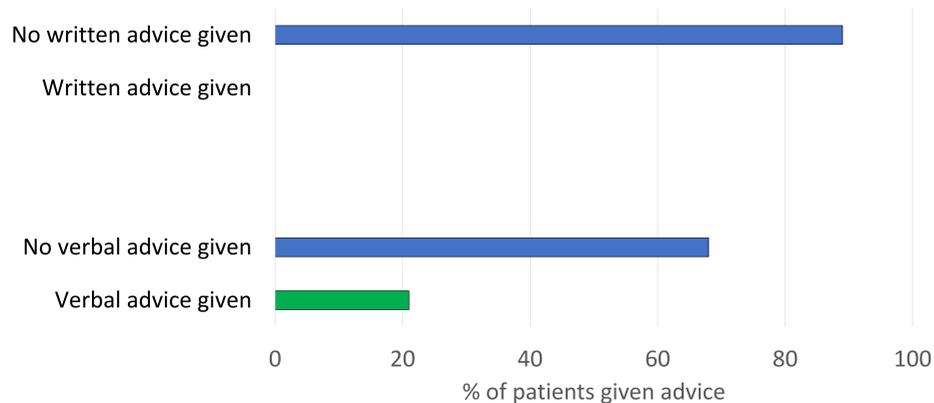
Methods

An audit collection tool consisting of 14 questions was used to collect data from 89 haematology patients who were receiving chemotherapy at Maidstone Hospital during February 2019. Our key performance indicators were:

1. Was the advice given regarding the need for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, and if so, was it verbal or written?
 2. Has the patient received an influenza vaccine in the last year?
 3. Has the patient received a pneumococcal vaccine in the last 5 years?
- Some of the vaccine data was unavailable because patients were unsure whether they had been given a vaccine and it was not possible to corroborate this.

Results

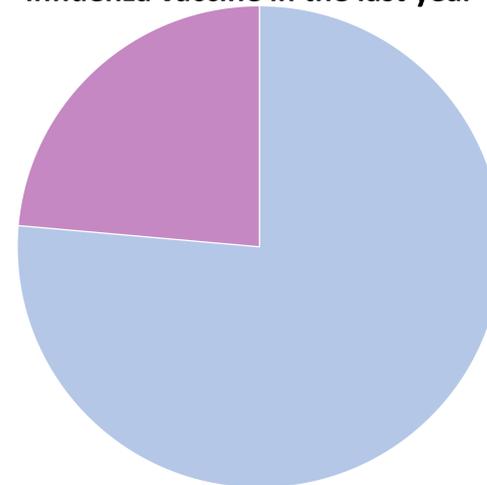
Advice currently given to patients regarding vaccination



	YES	NO	Unable to gather data/patient unsure
Did the patient receive verbal advice regarding vaccines?	21/89 (23.6%)	68/89 (76.4%)	n/a
Did the patient receive written advice regarding vaccines?	0/89 (0%)	89/89 (100%)	n/a
Did the patient receive an influenza vaccine?	68/89 (76.4%)	21/89 (23.6%)	n/a
Did the patient receive a pneumococcal vaccine?	31/89 (34.8%)	52/89 (58.4%)	6/89 (6.7%)

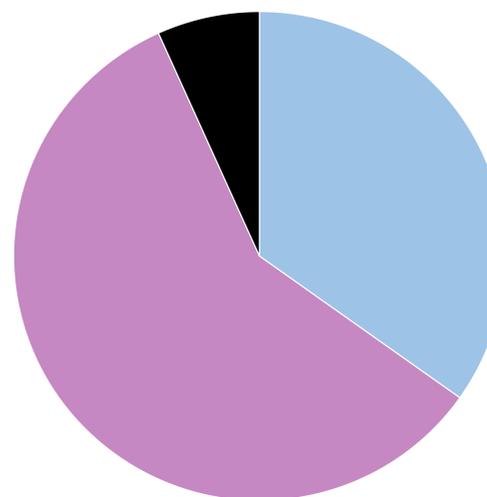
Results

Proportion of patients who received an influenza vaccine in the last year



■ Influenza vaccine given
■ Influenza vaccine NOT given in last year

Proportion of patients who received an influenza vaccine in the last 5 years.



■ Pneumococcal vaccine given in last 5 years
■ Pneumococcal vaccine NOT given in last 5 years
■ Data not available

Conclusion

Advice needs to be given to patients who are having chemotherapy, either verbally or written. We propose, as a result of this audit, to provide patients with a leaflet outlining the recommendations as per national guidance. We will then re-audit compliance with influenza and pneumococcal vaccines and hope to demonstrate an improvement as a result of our intervention.

References

¹The Green Book, Chapter 19 and 25, 2020.