Adult Immunization Board

The Herpes Zoster example from Greece

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Antwerp Belgium, April 18th 2023
National Immunization Committee, Greece
Recommends inclusion in NAIS, im x 2 doses, April 2023

• First phase
  • Immunocompromised individuals ≥ 60 yrs
  • Immunocompromised individuals ≥ 18 yrs w recurrent episodes of zoster
Rationale
will be published in public domain, 1559 words, 46 Refs

• Includes baseline epi info, vaccine info, regulatory info (EMA) & SPC based on clinical trial results

• Provides estimates of efficacy for both vaccines in medical terms
  • 95%Cis, p values

• According to literature disease more severe & complications / hospitalization more frequent in ages ≥ 65 yrs
Rationale

spc info, detailed scientific language

• Includes baseline info, vaccine info, SPC info & regulatory info (EMA),
  clinical trial results, safety info

• Provides estimates of efficacy for both vaccines in medical terms
  • 95%Cis, p values
Rationale
Age criterion & severity

• According to literature disease more severe & complications / hospitalization more frequent in ages ≥ 65 yrs
Rationale

Incidence rate local studies, bias

• Cites limited epi info from Greece

  • Tertiary care cross-sectional study 1995-2002
    • 12.4‰, median age 64 yrs, m/ 63 yrs f, highest in >80 yrs

  • Prospective surveillance data 2007-2009, in island of Crete, 1ry care network
    • 1.4/1000 pt-yrs

Lionis CD, et al BMC Fam Pract. 2011
Rationale

Immunocompromised pts, 1 local study

- 450 pts post kidney transplantation, f/u: 38 months
  - 4.6% HZV episode - incidence 20.6 per 1000 pt-yrs, 10.3% hospitalization
  - no generalized dz, no deaths but... 48.7% post-herpetic neuralgia
  - Risk factors: age ≥ 60 yrs, history of VZV, anti-rejection Rx

Pavlopoulou ID, et al. BMC Infect Dis. 2015
Rationale

Cost-effectiveness studies, world

• Reference to USA, Japan, limited European data

• Acceptable cost-effectiveness
  • Mostly for RZV vs. no immunization
  • in people aged ≥ 60 yrs
  • 

• Price much lower than the one vaccine will be offered in Greece
Rationale

Immunization guidance, other countries

• Germany, UK, Switzerland, Australia, USA, Canada

• Heterogeneity in recommendations

  • Type, age, high risk groups
Rationale for final decision, no comparison
Immunogenicity, duration, IC pts, cost-effectiveness

• RZV -> Better efficacy

• RZV -> Only vaccine to be administered in IC pts (BMT, RTx, Solid Ca)

• RZV -> Longer duration of protection

• Zoster severity / complication worse w ↑ age

• Cost prohibits general recommendation
National Immunization Committee, Greece
Recommends only in IC, ZVL in others

• First phase
  • Immunocompromised individuals ≥ 60 yrs
  • Immunocompromised individuals ≥ 18 yrs w recurrent episodes of zoster

• Analytic tables w ICD 10 codes & IC meds w ATC codes
National Immunization Committee, Greece
Recommends inclusion in NAIS, im x 2 doses, April 2023

• Pts who are going to undergo immunosuppressive therapy
  • administer 1<sup>st</sup> dose one month before the start of treatment
  • 2<sup>nd</sup> dose administered 1-2 months after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose

• Prophylactic antiviral treatment is not a contraindication

• Pts previously vaccinated w ZVL should be vaccinated w RZV after at least 5 years have passed since the vaccination w ZVL
Problems

• ID society of Greece adapts & publishes online ACIP/CDC guidance

• Formal complaint from company

• Availability of ZVL?

• Next phase when? Cost issues may affect rest of national schedule

• Communication issues, supporting statement using scientific language