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Title: Seasonal influenza vaccination rates in chronic asthma patients

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Body: Aim To document influenza vaccination in asthma patients, to explore factors that influence vaccination. Method Adult patients with chronic asthma attending a hospital clinic (n=146, Female =103, mean age 49.81±3.2, 29.66 Male) filled in a questionnaire in January 2012 on influenza vaccination. Results 51.39% used reliever medication less than twice per week. 4.79% were current smokers. 86(58.9%) of patients had experienced acute episodes in the previous year. 80(55%, 40% of Male, 61% of F) received the influenza vaccine this winter. 129 (88.6%) had been vaccinated in the past. 49 patients did not re-vaccinate because of fear of side effects(21), forgotten or had no time(12), were sick when vaccine available(6), adverse media report (1), because of current pregnancy(5) and 4 thought they did not need it. 41 patients who had experienced side effects in the past, 16 re-vaccinated this year. 78 of 125 (62.4%) of all patients who were advised the vaccine were vaccinated, while 10% of those not advised were vaccinated this year (p=<0.0001). 78% of those who were advised to take the vaccine by a doctor were actually vaccinated. The mean age for vaccinated was 54, and 42 in those who were not (p=0.0003). The main reasons for taking the vaccine were advised by a doctor(34%), to protect themselves(60%), to reduce severity and frequency of asthma attacks (39%). Reasons for not having the vaccine were fear of side effects (40%), forgot or had no time to take it (19%), did not know they should take it (12%) Conclusion The rate of influenza vaccination in asthma patients is low. Medical advice by a medical practitioner resulted in a high vaccination rate. Fear of side-effects was main reason for non-vaccination.