

IMMUNIZATIONS AGAINST RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SETTING IN POLAND.

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Introduction: Pneumococcal infections, pertussis and influenza are vaccine-preventable diseases. Immunization against pertussis is mandatory, while pneumococcal and influenza vaccines are recommended. The aim was to assess the coverage of these vaccinations. **Material and methods:** A retrospective chart analysis of 1356 children in a large primary health care centre. The type of vaccine (whole-cell or acellular), the number of doses, compliance with the dosing regimen and age of first doses were analyzed. **Results:** Pertussis immunization coverage was high (1337/1356 patients, 98.6%). The whole-cell vaccine was administered in 449 patients (33.1%), acellular in 605 children (44.6%), in 89 (6.6%) patients both vaccines were used. Pneumococcal vaccine was administered in 499 children (36.8%), in majority of them (230/499; 46.1%) the immunization started in the first 6 months of life, in 63/499 patients (12.6%) at age 7-11 months, in 63/499 children (12.6%) at age 12-23 months and in 143 patients (28.7%) at age over 24 months. The schedule was correct in 16 children immunized in first 6 months of life, 4 children at age 7-11 months and 54 children at age 12-23 month. 109/1356 children were vaccinated against influenza including 48/109 children vaccinated once. The proper dosing regimen was used in 30 patients (49.2%). Only 47/1356 patients (3.5%) were immunized against both pneumococci and influenza. **Conclusions:** Immunizations against vaccine-preventable respiratory diseases are used ineffectively. Vaccination against one disease should be regarded as opportunity for immunization against the other respiratory diseases.