

VACCINATIONS IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ASTHMA.

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Asthma is a common, frequently occurring chronic respiratory disease in Poland. Infectious agents play an important role in asthma exacerbations, which implies the need for hospitalization, more aggressive treatment and poorer quality of life. A review of publications on vaccinations and asthma was done. The results of prospective, controlled cohort studies do not confirm the connection of vaccination in infancy and development of asthma. Vaccinations against *S. pneumoniae* and influenza are recommended for children and adults with asthma in Poland and in many countries worldwide. Pneumococcal infection in asthmatics is associated with higher risk of invasive infections and pneumonia, compared to the population. Asthma is also a risk factor for severe course of influenza requiring hospitalization, increased need for outpatient visits and deterioration of asthma control. No significant effect of vaccination on the incidence and duration of asthma exacerbations was found. Vaccination with inactivated influenza vaccines are completely safe and do not cause clinically significant asthma exacerbations and drug consumption during or within two weeks after vaccination. Conclusions: Infection with *S. pneumoniae*, pertussis and influenza play an important role in asthma complications. Vaccinations are recommended way of prevention in children of adults with asthma.