

Asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis and cough

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Patients Knowledge of Influenza and Influenza Immunizations: Results of a National Survey in Poland

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Influenza vaccination coverage rate in Poland has been remaining on a very low level ca. 3% for many years. It might be related to unsatisfactory and selective knowledge of influenza among the general public. To address this issue, we examined public knowledge on influenza and the influenza vaccinations using online questionnaire consisting of 12 closed questions.

Results: 1669 persons, mostly young women, completed the questionnaire. Although the majority of respondents (73%) passed the threshold of 70% correct answers, we identified crucial gaps in their knowledge: unawareness of the risk groups for complications (7.9% correct answers), not knowing that influenza vaccine can be administered from September to March (8.4% correct answer) and ignorance of the composition of the vaccine - only 12,3% of respondents knew that the influenza vaccines contain fragments of the viruses or their antigens. The majority of respondents were convinced that influenza vaccine contains live bacteria.

Conclusions: Low influenza vaccination coverage rate in Poland may be related to gaps in public knowledge about it. Education of the general public focused on selected issues: risk groups, safety of the influenza vaccine and season when the vaccine can be administered should be prioritized to increase vaccination coverage rates in Poland.