

SAND abstract No. 154 from the BEACH program 2009–10

Subject: Pneumococcal vaccine and pneumonia in general practice patients

Organisation supporting this study: Wyeth Australia Pty Ltd

Issues: The proportion of general practice patients who received a pneumococcal vaccination: in the previous 5 years; the proportion who received the vaccinations in the previous 12 months, and the month of vaccination; indications for pneumococcal vaccination; the proportion of general practice patients who had been diagnosed with pneumonia in the previous 12 months; month of pneumonia diagnosis; impact of pneumonia on daily life (slight, moderate, severe, very severe).

Sample: 2,662 respondents from 90 GPs; data collection period: 22/09/2009 – 26/10/2009.

Method: Detailed in the paper entitled SAND method 2009–10 at:
<www.fmrc.org.au/publications/SAND_abstracts.htm>.

Summary of results

The age-sex distribution of the respondents did not differ from the distribution for all BEACH respondents in 2008–09, with the majority of patients being female (57.8%). Patients aged 45–64 years accounted for 26.1% of the sample.

Of the 2,662 respondents, 24.4% ($n=650$, 95% CI: 21.3–27.6) had been given a pneumococcal vaccine in the previous 5 years. Of these, 36.5% were aged 75 years or more, and 28.2% were aged less than 15 years. Children aged less than 15 years (48.2%) and those aged 65 years and over (66.6%) had the highest vaccination rates over the previous 5 years.

Of the 601 respondents as to when vaccination had been done, 150 patients (25.0%) had been vaccinated in the previous year, and 132 of these knew the month of vaccination – March and September (each with 17.4%) were most common. After adjusting for general practice attendance frequencies by age and sex, it was estimated that 4.9% of patients who attended general practice at least once had a pneumococcal vaccine in that year.

Reason for vaccination (multiple responses allowed) was recorded for 533 patients. Of these, 62.1% were vaccinated because they were aged 65 years or more, and 27.8% were vaccinated as part of the routine childhood immunisation program. Another medical risk factor was given as a reason for 16.1% of patients, being a smoker was listed for 3.2%, and 0.9% were vaccinated because they came from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background and were aged over 50 years.

Of the 2,641 respondents who answered the question on pneumonia diagnosis, 62 (2.4%) had been diagnosed with pneumonia in the previous year. Of 48 respondents, almost one-third of had been diagnosed in September ($n=14$, 29.2%).

Of the 62 patients with diagnosed pneumonia, 28 (45.2%) had been vaccinated before their diagnosis of pneumonia, 48.4% had not, and 6.5% did not know. There were 56 respondents to the question on impact of pneumonia on daily life: 27 of them (48.2%) judged the impact as 'severe', and 21.4% judged it 'very severe'.

Correspondence to: Julie O'Halloran, AGPSCC

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The shaded section of the following forms asks questions about **PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION AND PNEUMONIA**.
 You may tear out this page as a guide to completing the following section of forms.

INSTRUCTIONS

Ask **ALL** of the **next 30 PATIENTS** the following questions **in the order in which the patients are seen**.

Please **DO NOT** select patients to suit the topic being investigated.

Time since vaccination

Please indicate whether the **pneumococcal vaccine** was **given** to the patient **in the last 12 months**.

If **'yes'** please specify the date (**month and year**) that the **vaccination was last given**.
 For example, if the most recent vaccine was given in February this year please write '02 / 2009' in the space provided.

PART 2: Pneumonia

Please ask the patient whether they have been **diagnosed with pneumonia in the last 12 months**.

If **'yes'** please specify the date (**month and year**) that the **pneumonia was diagnosed**.

If **'no'** please **end questions** here for this patient.

Pneumococcal immunisation

Please use the tick boxes to advise whether this patient has had a **pneumococcal immunisation** in the **last 5 years**.

If **'no'** please continue to **part 2** of the form.

Main reason(s) for vaccination

In your clinical opinion, please advise the **main reason(s)** that this patient **received the pneumococcal vaccine**.

Please tick all that apply.

Impact of pneumonia

Please ask the patient to describe the extent to which pneumonia **impacted on their day to day life**.

<p>In the last 5 years has this patient received a pneumococcal vaccine?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Pneumovax 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Prevenar <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - other/unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No → Go to PART 2</p>	<p>If 'yes' was the vaccine given in the last 12 months?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please specify date of most recent vaccination) ___ / ___ - ___ mth / year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>In your clinical opinion, what was/were the main reason/s that this patient received a pneumococcal vaccine?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aged ≥ 65 years <input type="checkbox"/> Routine childhood vaccination <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander ≥ 50 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> Other medical risk factors (e.g. COPD) <input type="checkbox"/> Smoker <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please specify) _____</p>	<p>PART 2: Pneumonia</p> <p>Please ask the patient whether they have been diagnosed with pneumonia in the past 12 months?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please specify date) ___ / ___ - ___ mth / year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No → End questions</p>	<p>If 'yes', to what extent did this impact on your day to day life?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not at all <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately <input type="checkbox"/> Severely <input type="checkbox"/> Very severely</p>
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