SAND abstract number 215 from the BEACH program 2013–14

Subject: Travel vaccination and prophylaxis in general practice patients – 2013

Organisation collaborating for this study: bioCSL (Australia) Pty Ltd

Issues: The proportion of patients who travelled overseas in the previous 2 years; countries visited; travel advice sought; vaccination and prophylaxis status; discussion of risk of disease with the GP; and reasons for non-vaccination.

Sample: 2,362 patients from 80 GPs; data collection period: 01/05/2013 – 03/06/2013.


Summary of results

The initial question about travel overseas in the previous two years was completed by 2,362 patients. Age was known for 2,347 and sex for 2,347 patients. The age and sex distributions did not differ from those of patients at all BEACH encounters in 2011–12.

Of 2,362 respondents, 476 (20.2%, 95% CI: 17.1–23.2) had travelled overseas in the previous two years. A smaller proportion of patients aged < 15 years and aged 75 + had travelled overseas.

All following results relate only to the most recent overseas trip.

Of 473 travellers, 76.7% had visited one country, 14.8% two countries, and 8.5% three or more countries. The ‘main’ destinations most frequently visited were New Zealand (NZ) (14%), United States of America (USA) (10%) and Thailand (9%).

Of the 473 travellers, 287 (60.7%, 95% CI: 55.5–65.9) had travelled to one or more ‘at risk’ destinations: 58.4% (of 473) to countries with a risk for hepatitis B, 55.4% for typhoid, 53.1% for hepatitis A, 45.0% for rabies, 6.1% for malaria and 2.1% for yellow fever.

Of 453 respondents (who each reported nil, one or more sources of advice): 64.0% had not sought travel advice before travel; 30.0% had sought advice from a GP; 3.3% from a travel clinic; and 2.9% from the internet. Of the 277 respondents who had travelled to at risk destinations, 52.3% had not sought advice and 39.7% had sought advice from a GP.

For each of six infectious diseases we investigated the patient’s pre-travel vaccination status and discussion of infection risk. The following results should be interpreted with caution, as the number of respondents and the proportion of completed questions varied considerably.

Of 185 respondents visiting at least one at-risk country, only 7.0% had been fully vaccinated/given prophylaxis for all relevant diseases (out of the six diseases listed below).

The proportion of respondent travellers who were fully vaccinated (or malaria prophylaxis) for each specified disease prior to travel was: 53.8% of 160 respondents travelling to a hepatitis A risk destination; 51.2% of 164 respondents for a typhoid risk destination; 37.5% of 160 for hepatitis B; 52.2% of 23 for malaria; 77.8% of 9 for yellow fever; and 5.2% of 116 respondents travelling to a rabies risk destination. For each of these diseases, the proportion of respondent travellers who were both ‘at risk’ and ‘had not discussed the risk’ was 14.8%, 14.9%, 12.7%, 14.9%, 11.6% and 16.4% respectively.

Of 57 ‘not fully-vaccinated’ respondents visiting an at-risk country, the reason for lack of full protection was ‘Patient refusal’ for 31.6% and ‘Did not consult GP/doctor ‘for 26.3%.

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
The shaded section of the following forms asks questions about TRAVEL VACCINATIONS AND PROPHYLAXIS MEDICATION.
You may tear out this page as a guide to completing the following section of forms.

INSTRUCTIONS
Ask EACH 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.

Overseas travel
Please advise whether this patient has travelled overseas in the past 2 years.
If 'yes' please specify how many times this patient has travelled overseas.
If 'no' you can end questions here for this patient.

The remaining questions on this form relate to the patient's most recent overseas trip. Patients who have made multiple overseas trips in the past 2 years should answer the questions pertaining to the most recent trip.

Destination country, rurality and length of stay
Please specify the country where the patient spent the most time during the most recent overseas trip.
Please also record details of other countries visited in the same trip.
For each country please use the tick boxes to indicate whether:
- the patient stayed overnight in a rural area
- the length of time spent in the country was ≤4 weeks.

Infectious diseases
Prior to the most recent trip - for each of the specified infectious diseases, please indicate whether:
- the patient was fully vaccinated, regardless of whether the vaccination was specifically given for this trip. For malaria, please advise whether prophylaxis medication was given.
- the risk of each disease was OR was not discussed with the patient in regard to the travel destination(s), and/or
- the patient was not considered to be at risk of contracting the disease in the travel destination(s).
Note: at least one response should be recorded for each of the listed diseases.

Travel advice
Prior to the most recent trip please indicate whether the patient sought travel advice about vaccinations or prophylaxis medications, and where this advice was sought.

Vaccination/prophylaxis not given
When a vaccination(s) and/or prophylaxis medication(s) was indicated for the patient's travel destination but not given to the patient please use the tick boxes to indicate why it/were not given.
Please write a number in the space provided (under the label 'Disease No.') to indicate the disease/s to which each of the reason/s relate.
If the 'other' label applies, please specify the reason in the space provided.

Has the patient travelled overseas in the past 2 years?
☐ Yes - please specify how many trips: ________
☐ No → End questions

The remaining questions relate to the most recent overseas trip

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country where most time was spent:</th>
<th>Overnight stay in rural area?</th>
<th>Length of stay ≤4 weeks?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other countries visited (in the same trip)</td>
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PRIOR TO TRAVEL:
Did the patient seek travel vaccination or prophylaxis advice?
☐ Yes - from GP
☐ Yes - travel clinic
☐ Yes - internet
☐ Yes - other
☐ No

For each disease, was:
1. Rabies
2. Typhoid
3. Yellow fever
4. Hepatitis A
5. Hepatitis B
6. Malaria

Patient fully vaccinated? Yes No
Risk discussed? Yes No
Patient not at risk? Yes No

If indicated but not given, why not?
☐ Insufficient time prior to travel
☐ Cost
☐ Patient refusal
☐ Other (please specify): ________