TITLE: Immunization with the Influenza Vaccine: Clinical Effectiveness, Safety, and Guidelines for Administration

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of immunization with the influenza vaccine for the prevention of disease transmission?

2. What is the incidence and severity of adverse effects associated with immunization with the influenza vaccine?

3. What are the guidelines for administration of the influenza vaccine?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 3, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2006 and July 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and randomized controlled trials studies. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

Nine systematic reviews were identified pertaining to the clinical effectiveness and adverse events associated with the influenza vaccine. One RCT and nine observational studies were
identified pertaining to uptake and prevention of disease transmission associated with the influenza vaccine. With regard to routes of administration of the influenza vaccine, 5 RCTs were identified. Twenty-two RCTs and four observational studies were identified pertaining to the safety of the influenza vaccine. Two RCTs and three observational studies were also identified pertaining to the effectiveness of the influenza vaccine. Five evidence-based guidelines for the administration of the influenza vaccine were identified. No relevant health technology assessments were found in the literature search. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the Appendix.

**Health technology assessments**
No literature identified.

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses**


Uptake and prevention


Route of administration


Safety


**Effectiveness**


**Observational studies**

**Uptake and prevention**


Safety


Effectiveness


Guidelines and recommendations


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses- patients with HIV


Review articles


Additional references


