

Pharmacy-based provision of influenza vaccination in Switzerland

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Introduction

Influenza vaccination saves lives and reduces healthcare costs. Uptake of vaccination is a serious challenge and different attempts aim at increasing immunisation rates. Since 2003, in Basel, Switzerland, pharmacists and physicians work together and offer a low-threshold access for influenza vaccination.

Objectives

We aimed at evaluation of the development of vaccinations through pharmacies.

Methods

Campaigns with voluntary community pharmacies in Basel (Switzerland) were carried out annually offering influenza vaccination on predefined time slots without appointment. Pharmacists assessed patients based on a structured data sheet and after triage of eligible patients a physician immediately administered the vaccine in the pharmacy.

Results

Mean number of vaccinated persons per pharmacy increased from 66.2 (2004) to 121.6 (2005; avian flu), in 2009 (swine flu) the number even increased up to 105.0 (Fig. 1 and 2). The percentage of female was 53.7-58.9%.

Out of all vaccinated persons ($n=14'756$) $39.7\% \pm 2.2\%$ (mean $\pm$ standard deviation [SD]) belong to at least one risk group (>65 years and/or chronic disease) and most ($89.2\% \pm 1.3\%$; mean $\pm$ SD) were in line with national recommendations (many person contacts, close contact to persons at risk, chronic disease or >65 years) (Tab. 1). Most vaccinations ($78.3\% \pm 2.2\%$; mean $\pm$ SD) were administered for persons currently not in medical care. Within 4 weeks, only few local (pain, swelling, hematoma, itching, redness) adverse drug reactions and generalised events (fever, fatigue) were reported ($0.3\% \pm 0.04\%$; mean $\pm$ SD).

Conclusion

Pharmacy-based influenza vaccination is highly appreciated, reaches a target population which is mainly not in medical care and contributes to an estimated 8% of all influenza vaccinations.

The development of vaccinations was in line with overall vaccination rate.

Collaboration with physicians is a feasible approach unless health authorities allow pharmacists to administer vaccines on their own responsibility.

Tab. 1: Basic data of campaign

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
vaccinated persons	728	2553	1865	1936	2485	2834	2340
vaccinated persons per pharmacy	66.2	121.6	62.2	71.7	99.4	105	80.7
number of pharmacies	11	21	30	27	25	27	29
mean age of patients/customers	54.4	53.8	54.2	54.6	54.4	53.2	55.0
no vaccination after anamnesis	2	10	12	9	11	1	3
adverse drug reactions	0	7	6	7	8	8	6

Fig. 1: Number of vaccinations

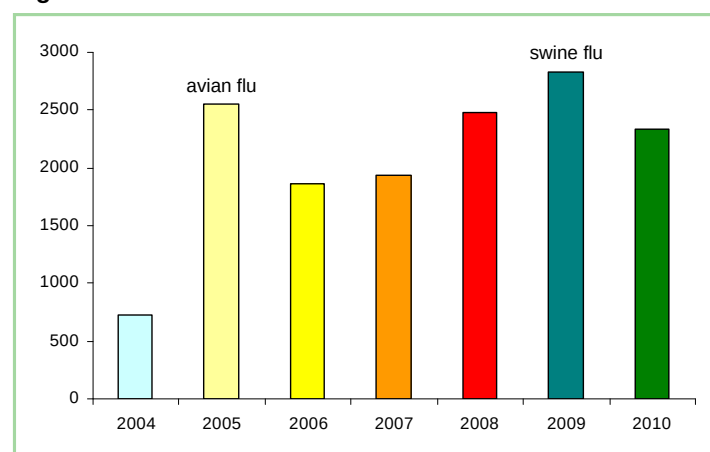
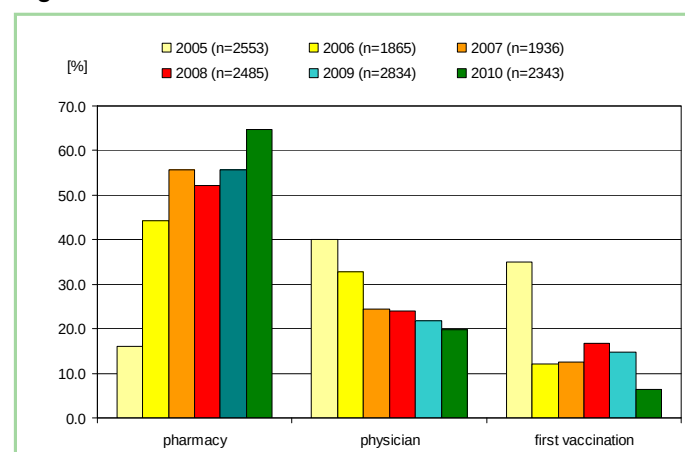


Fig. 2: Antecedent vaccination



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